

The flight

A flock of birds moves as one even though it is made up of many separate units. They wheel and soar, part and tack, avoid obstacles, scatter and reassemble in an instant, changing form all the time. A collective comes together to take a journey, a first flight.

Maria Koliopoulou

Maria Koliopoulou was born in Athens, where she lives and works. She attended the Laban Centre for Movement and Dance on a scholarship, earning a Diploma in Dance Theatre and a Bachelor of Arts with Honours. She studied at the Vacalo School of Arts & Design in parallel.

She is a founder member of the Proxima contemporary dance company. Choreographies of hers have been performed both in Greece and abroad at venues and events which include the OCC, the Athens Festival, the Athens School of Fine Art, the SzólóDuó International Dance Festival (Budapest), the Tanz_house Salzburg Choreographer Platform, the Kosmos Theatre (Vienna), the Duncan Centre (Prague), the Abundance festival (Karlstad), the Stockholm Fringe Fest, the Balkan Dance Platform (Ljubljana), and the Algiers International Dance Festival.

In recent years, her work has been focused on the body as a conveyor of memories, and on how the lived-in body can speak for itself through its actions and its qualities. A series of choreographies under the umbrella title “praxeis [actions]” have sought to present different aspects of the body and the choreographer’s approach to it.

In 2013, her choreography *praxis 21 – mneme* took 2nd Prize at the Algiers International Dance festival. In 2008, she won the Jarmila Jeřábková award for two solo works, *praxis 1.3* and *praxis 3*, at the New Europe Festival in Prague.

She contributed an essay on “Developing artistic skills in the teaching of dance” to the collective volume *Culture and Art: seven essays on dance*.

She has taught dance in both primary and secondary education and in choreography/movement workshops at the Greek National School of Dance, the Kalamata International Dance Festival, the Athens School of Fine Art, the OCC and the Michael Cacoyannis Foundation.

She is a member of the dance link <http://syndesmoschorou.wordpress.com/>.