

## CI CRETE 2015 silenced

The eco-artistic gathering CI Crete is an annual dance festival which began its journey in 2011 as the first international Contact Improvisation festival in Greece. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_contact\\_improvisation\\_festivals](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_contact_improvisation_festivals)

Its initial vision and artistic intention was and still is the gathering of people with different backgrounds, coming from all over the world in order to study and research movement through contemporary dance, improvisation and specifically contact improvisation. This movement research is always in connection with the environment, the surrounding space, the everyday social reality and our "contact" with the nature and our fellows.

Throughout its journey, thanks to the zeal of the organizers and volunteers, the amazing collaboration with well known artists from all over the world, the support of friends and local businessmen, and above all thanks to the support and presence of Greek and foreign participants, the CI Crete festival has managed to overcome its initial expectations thus making Crete known in the international dance scene. Creating an open space in this period of crisis and finding solutions for everyday problems, the CI Crete gathering proposes an alternative way of living inspired by forgotten moral values like solidarity, cooperativeness, sharing and understanding. All of these are happening through dance, movement and art - the art of spontaneously creating something from nothing in any location. This is the essence of CI Crete festival that we all love!

This dance project received the moral support of the Municipality of Heraklion and was included in the leaflet of summer events in the years of 2012, 2013 and 2014. Moreover, the local district authorities offered some economic support in 2013 and 2014.

Every year the CI Crete festival "family" has been growing. New members were joining and all participants left Crete with the best impressions, both for the event and the island. Thus, the benefits for Crete, in an artistic, cultural and touristic level are enormous and for all of us, it is a great joy and pride to see our seed growing. However, it is extremely difficult to continually fight for its viability, continuation and further development.

Thus, we realized that the substantial support of local authorities is necessary, if not self-evident. We prepared a list of suggestions, such as the free use of the premises where the festival is taking place as well as the free use of theaters so that international artists can give performances, the advertisement of the festival (for instance, apart from the leaflet of summer events, the municipality can publish a

leaflet or even a postcard just for the festival) and a series of other organizational issues that are very hard for us but very easy for the local authorities.

Having established a world-wide reputation as an excellent and well organized eco-dance event that actually values and promotes our region, we feel a deep sorrow that after 5 months of pointless efforts to communicate with local authorities, we still do not have any information and consequently we cannot give any information to you. We do not have any response from the Municipality of Heraklion and we feel truly sorry for this inadequacy and for this year's festival cancellation. You should take into account that during all previous years, the basic schedule of the festival was prepared in March and all necessary information concerning the venue, time schedule and any other practicalities were finished by April. Therefore, in spite of five years of unrelenting efforts by both the festival founder, Georgia Petralli, and the organization team, we are sad to inform you that this year our vision will not take place and the festival will be canceled.

We keep repeating that we want art and culture, however, we should keep in mind the necessary respect and care towards the things we chose to support and serve. Perhaps through this process, we may be able to identify people with visions and dreams, professionals with zeal and a sense of responsibility and artists who create and inspire...

We continue to believe and hope, to listen and follow "moments" and "dreams", to live in the here and now, as art and the essence of Contact Improvisation have taught us to do.

We thank you all for everything!

**CI Crete 2015** - [www.contactimprocrete.com](http://www.contactimprocrete.com)

Videos of previous CI Crete Festivals:

**2011:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NBSvpHAvPQw>

**2012:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lUg8dJdc7Wk>

**2013:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zFe2AWBlhV4>

**2014:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1rF5PECCO28>