

The New Acropolis Museum

A symbol of Greek civilization



The creation of the New Acropolis Museum had been a decade-old dream that is now coming true. The perpetual target has been to safeguard and preserve the extant masterpieces of the classical civilization, as well as to ensure the proper presentation of the sculptures, and other archaeological findings, in an appropriate museum space.

by Michael Liapis, Minister of Culture

The huge symbolic and historic significance of the exhibits, as well as the effort to recover, and restore the unity of, the Parthenon marbles, indicated that it was imperative to create a modern museum, worthy of such works of art.

We tried to respond to the high expectations of this venture with respect, awe, and an increased sense of responsibility, and it is my belief that we managed to create a venue that will become a new destination for thousands of visitors, and will represent Greece's ability to promote its heritage.

The New Acropolis Museum, which in autumn 2008 will be ready to open its doors to the public, protects, preserves and promotes historical monuments in the best possible manner.

Nevertheless, the Museum, like any other Museum, is not only bricks and mortar. Above all, it is a living organism, and under the light of this fact we decided to allow gradual access to the public — initially to the ground floor of the Museum, in order to enable visitors to have a close look at its architectural structure and the





excavation in progress under its glass floors. The priority of the Museum, even at this stage, when the relocation of the exhibits has been completed and their placement begins, is the children. Assisted by archaeologists, little visitors will enrich their knowledge with information about the ruins of the ancient neighbourhood that was uncovered by the excavation; they will get acquainted with the Parthenon's frieze, and will have the opportunity to participate in various archaeological and recreational activities, even on Sundays.

Certain events for the promotion of the New Museum have also been scheduled prior to the inauguration ceremony, including UNESCO's conference on March 18-19, a special ceremony of Museums' Day (May 18th), as well as periodic exhibitions at the Museum's ground floor. We want the New Acropolis Museum to symbolize the future, without neglecting Greece's glorious past. The Museum can not be comparable to any

other great museum in Europe, since the combination of its symbolic position with the importance of its exhibits, ensure its worldwide uniqueness. A country's celebrated history is, no doubt, a very important legacy, albeit if next generations fail to promote it properly it will cast a dark shadow on all.

We are interested in the past, but we are also gazing ahead, in order to preserve and promote our historical heritage as it deserves.

That's why we are so proud of the New Acropolis Museum. A museum that has a dialectical relationship with the Sacred Rock of the Acropolis, blends in harmoniously with the archaeological and natural environment of the area, and, as a natural consequence, revives the demand to restore the unity of the Parthenon's sculptures. A demand similar to the demand for world peace and respect to human rights. One of humanity's debts to culture. 🌍