

MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY  
AND THE HISTORY OF ART



Opening hours 8.30' - 16.30'

**Museum of Archaeology and the History of Art**  
University of Athens - Faculty of History and Archaeology  
School of Philosophy, University Campus, 157 84 Athens  
Tel. - Fax +30 210 72 77 561  
E-mail: [museum@arch.uoa.gr](mailto:museum@arch.uoa.gr)

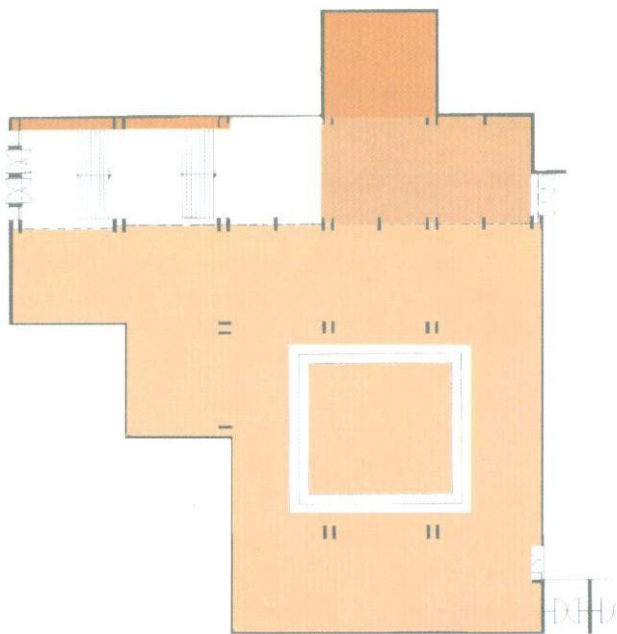
Museum of Archaeology  
and the History of Art

The efforts of professors of the University of Athens to establish a depository of educational collections at the Museum of Archaeology and the History of Art date from the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The exhibits have been donated by public Museums, Ephorates of Antiquities and also by private collectors. The Museum, in its current form, has been operating at the building of the School of Philosophy since 1994. In 2004, an open-air Archaeological Park was inaugurated, including exhibits that came from the excavations of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities, during the construction of the Athens Metropolitan Railroad.

The Museum of Archaeology and the History of Art currently houses 11 Educational Collections. They form part of the students' education, serving the purpose of academic training through the close interaction of students with the exhibits. Archaeology students are given the opportunity to study systematically a great variety of objects that are central to the understanding and appreciation of the methods of archaeological excavation and discovery and the practices of ancient art and culture.

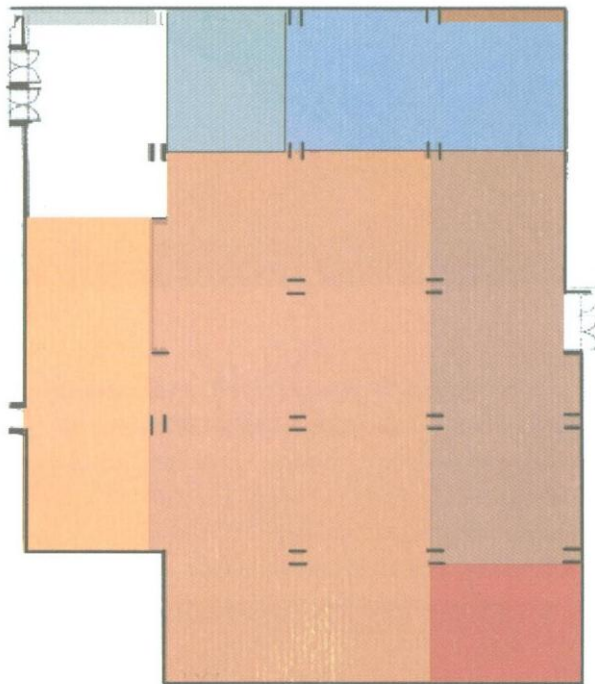


School of Philosophy  
3<sup>rd</sup> floor



- Collection of Ancient Sculpture, Epigraphy and Casts
- Collection of Rocks, Minerals and Ancient Technology
- Collection of Contemporary Art

School of Philosophy  
2<sup>nd</sup> floor



- Collection of Prehistoric Archaeology
- Collection of Classical Archaeology
- Byzantine Collections
- Trans-Mediterranean and Diachronic Collection of Pottery
- Collection of Excavation Research
- Collection of Environmental Archaeology
- Periodical exhibitions



## Collection of Prehistoric Archaeology

The Collection includes artifacts dating from the Paleolithic to the 12<sup>th</sup> century B.C. and mainly originate –with a few exceptions- from the Aegean islands. The exhibition includes sherds from all the prehistoric periods, a few intact vessels, some stone and clay Mycenaean statuettes, as well as blades and flakes of obsidian dating from the Neolithic and early Bronze Age. Furthermore, the collection includes a Minoan copper axe and both Paleolithic and Neolithic tools and weapons. Among the exhibits are selected artifacts of the Lower and Middle Paleolithic that originate from Ethiopia.

The exhibits have been distributed in such a fashion as to be presented either according to chronological order (such as the Neolithic and Mycenaean exhibits) or based on geographical distribution.

## Collection of Classical Archaeology

The vases and potsherds that belong to this collection (a total of approximately 2000 items) have been acquired through a donation by the National Archeological Museum of Athens (in 1938) and several other donations namely, by the 1<sup>st</sup> Ephorate of Antiquities in Athens, the American School of Classical Studies through excavations it has conducted in the Ancient Agora, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ephorate of Antiquities through excavations it has conducted in the Metropolitan Railway of Athens at Syntagma Station, as well as

from private donations.

Intact vases are mainly on display in seven showcases that have been organized according to the chronological order of the exhibits (6<sup>th</sup> century B.C.-1<sup>st</sup> century A.D.). Potsherds are organized in drawers within each showcase and are all accessible to students that can perform ‘hands-on’ measurements and examine the individual features and distinctive style of each exhibit.

## Collection of Ancient Sculpture, Epigraphy and Casts

The collection comprises casts of ancient Greek sculptures that are currently on exhibit in various museums of Greece and abroad, such as the British Museum, the Munich Glyptothek and the Louvre. There is a number of casts that are of particular importance, because they were constructed based on earlier additions to the original sculptures, such as the Sounion Kouros, the Artemision horse, and the sculptures of the west pediment of the temple of Aphaia on the island of Aegina. There is also a plaster cast of the restored Nike from Aigina that now decorates Furtwaengler’s tomb in the First cemetery of Athens. Among the most important exhibits of the collection is the cast of the Hertz head type of Athena Parthenos’ Nike, the original being located in the Palazzo Venezia in Rome and rarely visited. The collection also includes original marble sculptures of the classical period, a stone sarcophagus from the Athens Metropolitan Railway excavations (kindly donated by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ephorate of Antiquities) and four marble funerary vessels (lekythoi and loutrophoroi) that are on loan from the National Archaeological Museum of Athens. To familiarize both the visitor and student with aspects of the ancient art of sculpting, the collection provides an educational display of marble working tools and a pointing machine.

## Collection of Byzantine Painting

The core of the collection consists of copies of wallpaintings and mosaics decorating Byzantine churches of Greece. Their originals are important works of monumental painting. The copies, made *in situ* by well-known modern Greek painters, not only reproduce scenes from these monuments, they are also works of neo-hellenic art in themselves, mostly by followers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century traditional trend initiated by Photis Kontoglou. Monuments from the occupied territory of Cyprus are depicted in a set of photographs that are also on display. The collection includes facsimile reprints from two famous illuminated manuscripts, the Vienna *Dioscorides* (*Vindob. med. gr. 1*) and the Vatican *Menologion* (*Vat. gr. 1613*), a fragment of original mosaic decoration with stone *tesserae*, a contemporary replica of a post-Byzantine icon showing the intermediate stages of the making of such pieces, as well as samples of painters’ tools and materials pertinent to their craft.

## Collection of Byzantine Ceramics and Applied Arts

The collection of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Ceramics comprises 12 intact vases, approximately 300 sherds as well as other objects that are organized into four educational sections: art of manufacturing, thematic distribution, chronological development and ornamental brickwork used in masonry. A comprehensive catalogue of all exhibits and a complete photographic archive are available. The collection was enriched in 2012 with 17 pieces of pottery and other ceramic objects (among them a bee-hive) originating from Delphi and related to the material culture of the Early Byzantine period.



## Collection of Contemporary Art

The collection of Greek Contemporary Painting was established through the initiative and efforts of Dr. Stelios Lydakakis, former Associate Professor of Art History. It comprises paintings and replicas of the works of Greek painters, such as Paris Prekas (1926-1999), Takis Katsoulidis (1933), Sarantis Karavouzis (1938-2011), Youlika Lakeridou (1940), Angelos (1943), Giorgos Droutsas (1946) and Kostas Evangelatos (1957). The collection of paintings covers a wide spectrum of themes and art forms.

## Trans-Mediterranean and Diachronic Collection of Pottery

The collection includes a significant selection of Cypriot vessels, a small collection of pottery from Mesopotamia, and several series of pottery of various periods from the Aegean basin. The collection serves as an important educational tool for the study of pottery in terms of regional influence on techniques and materials.

## Collection of Environmental Archaeology

The environmental collection comprises two showcases with the most characteristic rocks, fossils, animal and plant remains found in Greek excavations. Some shell and bone artifacts that have been manufactured experimentally by students are also exposed. The collection also includes a showcase with human skeletal remains, useful for the training of the archaeology students.

Furthermore, the preparation of plant and bone comparative collections is in progress in the Laboratory of Environmental Archaeology, which is providing thus support and validation to the collection.

## Collection of Rocks, Minerals and Ancient Technology

The collection consists of samples from a wide spectrum of stones, namely limestone, marble and semi-precious stones (gemstones), as well as minerals that have been widely used in ancient Greek architecture, sculpture and the minor arts. The collection has been organized in such a fashion as to enable both students and visitors to familiarize themselves with the various raw materials used in ancient technology. Identifying the raw material from which an ancient artifact / work of art or architectural item has been constructed is of paramount importance to archaeological research. Knowledge of the distinctive characteristics and properties of the raw materials behind a monument contributes significantly to the greater understanding of its form and intended use/or function.

## Collection of Excavation Research

The excavation conducted by the University in the Makrygianni area north of the Acropolis, was conducted from 1985 until 1997, with the aim of training senior students of Archaeology in the various techniques of excavation and the study of artifacts recovered through excavation. An area of 350 m<sup>2</sup> was investigated and items indicating the uninterrupted use of this area from prehistoric to contemporary times were recovered. Of particular importance are building remains dating back to the Middle Helladic period, part of a cemetery of the Geometric period, a street, wells and a network of sewers dating from classical times until late Antiquity. Furthermore the collection includes a Roman bath and a hypocaust as well as storage pithoi from Byzantine and post-Byzantine times. An exhibition that will display the findings and relevant documentation from the university excavation at Makrygianni is under preparation.

## Collection of Ethiopian popular art: paintings, handicrafts

The collection was established by the donation of Aikaterini Exarhou and includes items of popular Ethiopian art from the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Currently the collection is not on display except for 13 paintings that are hosted in the ‘Kostis Palamas’ Building of the University.

## The Archaeological Park

The park was established through a donation by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities to the Department of Archaeology and the History of Art of the University of Athens. It includes ancient remains of the eastern sector of the Classical, late-Roman and Byzantine city of Athens, recovered during the excavations for the construction of the Metropolitan Railway.

