

Press Release

“The defacements that hurt” An Alpha Bank programme for the restoration of sculptures

Alpha Bank has been demonstrating in practice for many years now its keen interest in Arts and Culture, not only by financially supporting related events but also through its Programmes and Collections.

More specifically, in line with its Corporate Social Responsibility policy, the Bank designed the cultural programme **“The defacements that hurt”**, which was first launched in **2013** and continued in **2014**. In **2015**, activities under the programme included the restoration of four more sculptures, in collaboration with the Athens Municipality: the bust of Emmanouil Xanthos in Kolonaki Square, *Girl in ecstasy* by Michael Tombros in Fokionos Negri Street, *Little girl* by Antonios Sochos, and the bust of Queen Olga at the Evangelismos Hospital park.

The works undertaken for all four sculptures started in December 2015 and were completed in February 2016. They included the removal of graffiti, cleaning of surfaces using surfactants, the restoration of the sculptures' pedestals and the application of a special anti-graffiti protective coating with no discoloration to the sculptures' surfaces.

With a total of **25 sculptures and monuments** in Athens successfully restored so far, the programme will continue during 2016 and will be expanded. In this respect, the donation of a graffiti removal and surface restoration machine to the Municipality of Thessaloniki sought to contribute to the Municipality's efforts to maintain in good condition the buildings that are representative of the identity of the city of Thessaloniki.

Athens, March 22, 2016

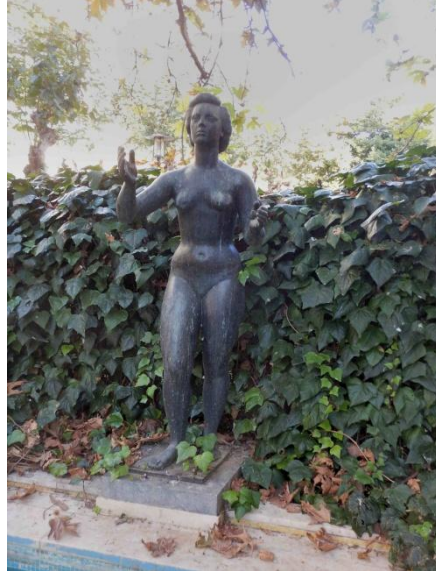
Before restoration

Kolonaki Square



T. Thomopoulos: **Emmanouil Xanthos**, 1930

Fokionos Negri



M. Tombros: **Girl in ecstasy**, 1939

Evangelismos Hospital Park



A. Sochos: **Little Girl**, 1924-30



G.Dimitriadis the Athenian: **Queen Olga**, 1938

After restoration

