

### **“The defacements that hurt”**

#### **A programme for the restoration of sculptures in the Municipality of Athens**

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.

In line with the above, with the valuable assistance of the Municipality of Athens the Bank designed a new programme named “The defacements that hurt”, in order to contribute to Greek social and cultural life. The programme was triggered by the condition of sculptures in downtown Athens, which have suffered extensive damage and acts of vandalism, especially during the last five years. These sculptures are works by major Greek artists, such as Lazaros Sochos, Thomas Thomopoulos, Dimitrios Filippotis, Georgios Dimitriadis and others. The works suffer the consequences of the adverse daily conditions that prevail in the city centre, together with all types of interference in the form of slogans, tags, chips, additions and overpainting.

The programme's purpose is to ensure that these sculptures and their pedestals are properly conserved and protected against future interference, and to sensitise to their presence the people passing through the Athens city centre, providing them with information on this particular initiative and on its results.

The team of conservation specialists is led by Mr Athanassios Tzamalīs, an expert in the conservation of sculptures with experience in the restoration of marble and bronze. More specifically, two sets of sculptures were restored, located in Syntagma Square and in the precincts of the National Historical Museum, respectively. The relevant works, which started in July 2013 and were completed in September 2013, involved the conservation of the bronze sculptures and their protection using wax, the conservation of the marble sculptures and the installation of additions to their pedestals, together with application of anti-graffiti coating. The programme will continue into 2014.

The project's communication approach focused on providing information to the public by means of an explanatory leaflet that was distributed in the respective area of work. The programme's communication material was designed by graphic artist Mr Dimitris Arvanitis, who is particularly sensitive to promoting actions that are related to social issues.

*Together, Culture becomes creation!*

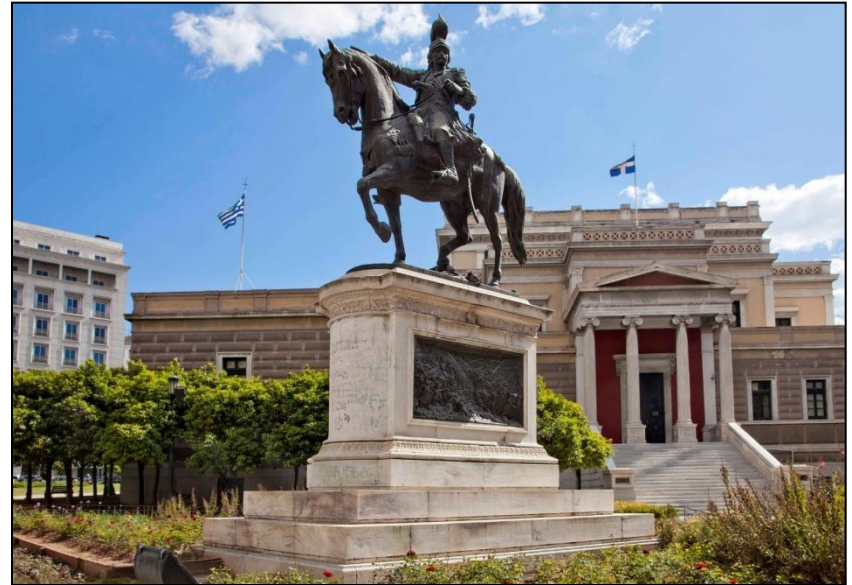
## NATIONAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM- PRECINCTS



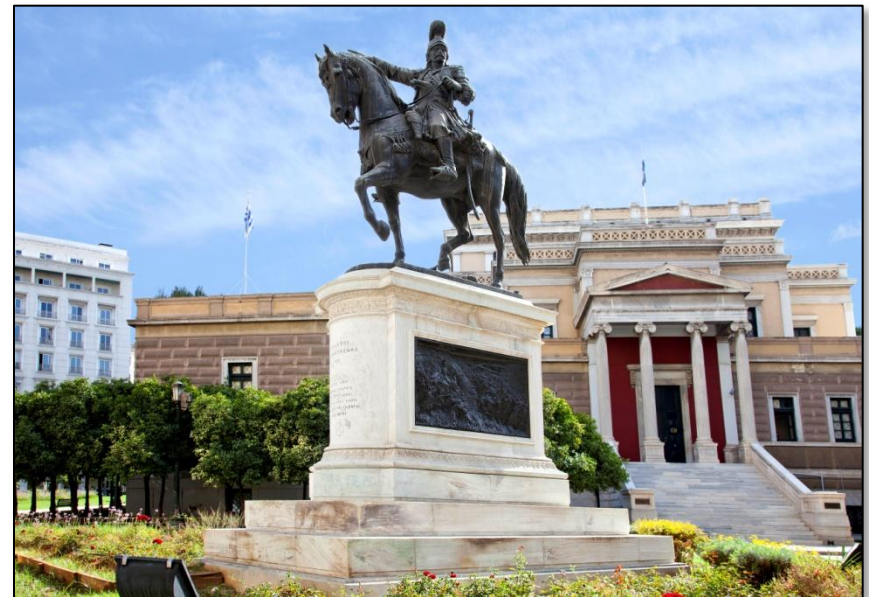
### The defacements that hurt

The sculptures of the centre of Athens have been significantly damaged and vandalised, especially during the last five years. Within 2013, we restored the sculptures at Syntagma Square and in the precincts of the National Historical Museum. The programme will be continued in 2014.

This project is undertaken by Alpha Bank in collaboration with the Municipality of Athens.



*T. Kolokotronis, 1902*





# NATIONAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM- PRECINCTS



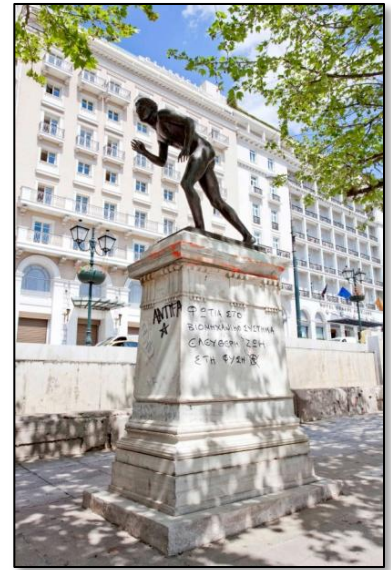
*C. Trikoupis, 1918*



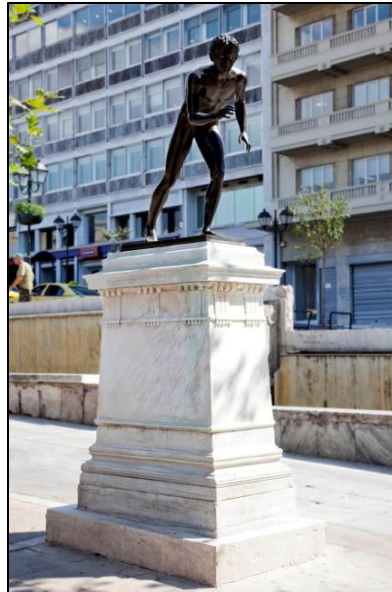
*T. Diligiannis, 1931*



*Wrestler A'*



*Wrestler B'*

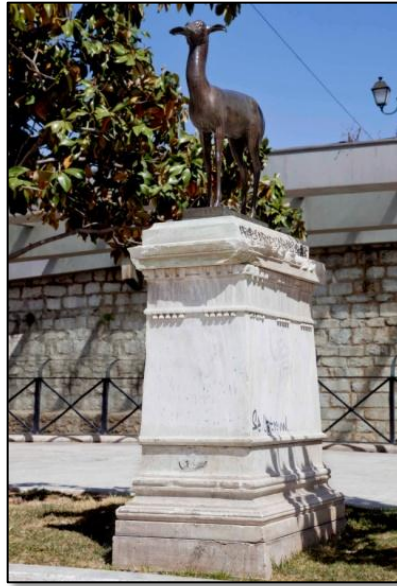




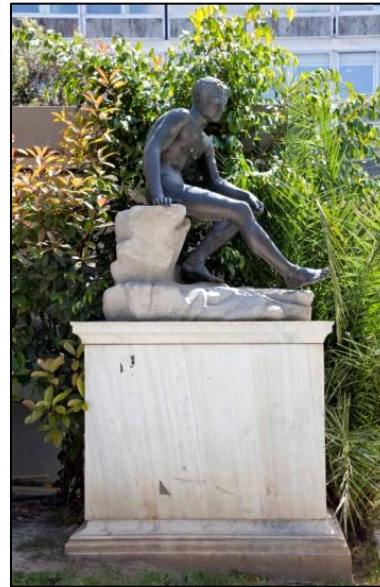
# SYNTAGMA SQUARE



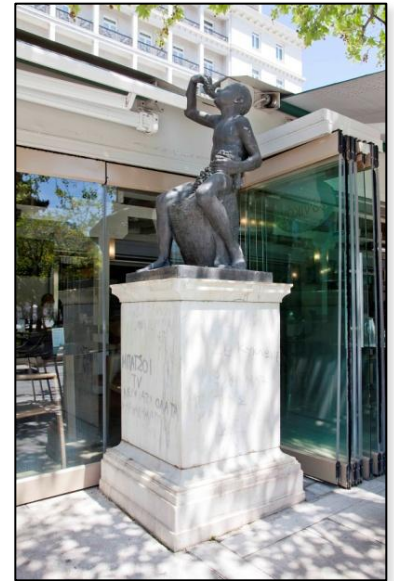
*Doe A'*



*Doe B'*



*Hermes Resting*



*Child with Grapes*

