

HELLENIC MINISTRY OF CULTURE
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF ANTIQUITIES AND CULTURAL HERITAGE
EPHORATE OF ANTIQUITIES OF ACHAEA



PRESS RELEASE

Photographic exhibition “Stolen past – Lost future” in Patras Archaeological Museum

A travelling periodical photographic exhibition, titled “Stolen past – Lost future” (“Gestohlene Vergangenheit – Verlorene Zukunft”), will be inaugurated in Patras Archaeological Museum on Thursday 20.6.2024, at 19.00. The exhibition brings forward the effort to safeguard cultural heritage and to awaken visitors about the fight against the crime of illicit trafficking and the international trade of antiquities. It also aims to highlight the joined efforts in this direction, at European and international level.

Having already been presented in Germany and Switzerland over the years 2018 and 2019 (Heidelberg University, Badisches Landesmuseum/Baden State Museum, Muenster University and Basel University), and also in Greece (National Kapodistrian University of Athens, Archaeological Museum of Messara in Crete) over the years 2022 και 2023, this display was warmly received by the academic, school and wider audience. The Hellenic Ministry of Culture attended to the publication of a bilingual exhibition catalogue and its digital transcript in three languages (<http://stolenpast.culture.gov.gr>).

The exhibition illustrates all sorts of threats to cultural heritage, which emerge from illegal excavations, stealing, illicit trafficking, as well as looting at times of war. It also points out the implications for the integrity of material culture, the validity of the artefacts’ interpretation and historic context, as well as the spiritual/intellectual values and messages conveyed by antiquities to the modern world and generations to come.

The particular phenomenon devastates, obliterates, or tampers with cultural treasures, historic documents, identities and collective memories. To their rescue come the coordinated actions taken at national and international level, along with precaution measures taken in time to prevent the depredation of antiquities.

The exhibition is organized within the frame of a co-operation covenant between the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Science, Research and Art of the federal state of Baden-Württemberg (2016), after two artefacts of the Cycladic civilization had been repatriated from the Karlsruhe Badisches Landesmuseum (Baden State Museum). The latter contributed significantly to the materialization of the present exhibition.

Exhibition duration: 21.6.2024 – 22.12.2024

Visiting hours: daily 08.00-20.00

Free admission