

National and Kapodistrian University of Athens: 180 years of continuous function

In 2017, the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens celebrates 180 years since its establishment in 1837. On this occasion, throughout the year various scientific and cultural events have been organized to commemorate this anniversary. In this context, on Saturday the 6th of May, 14 University Museums and the Historical Archive opened its doors for the wider public from 11:00 until 15:00. Located in four different Athenian neighborhoods, the Museums and the Historical Archive organized special events for the day and guided tours conducted by the Professors - Directors of the Museums and the members of the scientific personnel.

As part of the events for the 180th anniversary, the Athens University History Museum organized the temporary exhibition “The banner of the University of Athens: contemporary visual approaches”. The exhibition is presenting the history of the banner of the University of Athens, one of the most important exhibits of the Museum, created by the well known Nikolaos Gyzis (1842-1901), in collaboration with Georgios Iakovides (1853-1932). The banner depicts the ancient Greek Goddess Athena, a symbol of wisdom and knowledge, and it was commissioned by the Senate to the artists for the fifty-year celebration since the founding of the University of Athens (1837-1887). In order to investigate how contemporary artists interprets concepts like the “symbol”, or “emblem”, in our time, the Athens University History Museum invited ten contemporary artists of different generations, to draw inspiration from the Gyzi’s banner and to create new works of art especially for the exhibition. The artists Antonios, Dimitris Zouroudis, Pelagia Kyriazi, Eleni Lyra, Kyrillos Sarris, Dimitra Siaterlis, Dimitris Skourogiannis, Angelos Skourtis, George Hadjimichalis and Jannis Psychopedis created works with diverse materials, which converse not only with the banner but also with the permanent exhibits of the Athens University History Museum. On this occasion a catalogue of the exhibition has been in the Greek and the English language. The exhibition will durate until December 31st 2017 and various parallel events will be organized.

For more details, please visit our website

www.historymuseum.uoa.gr

The Athens University History Museum

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