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STREET ART FROM GREECE'S ECONOMIC CRISIS POSES QUESTIONS

Exhibition from Athens at National Hellenic Museum

CHICAGO, IL — The National Hellenic Museum (NHM) announces a thought-provoking new exhibition of street art from Athens, Greece that highlights the evolution of graffiti into a valuable medium of social and emotional commentary and public dialogue. The works in the exhibition were created during the height of the recent global economic crisis, which dramatically impacted Greece.

Titled, "The Street is My Gallery," the exhibition blends compelling visual design with relevant and pointed messages for political and economic leaders. The art also inspires a public dialogue of broader social issues such as racism, immigration, individual responsibility and empowerment. Starting as a subculture on the streets of New York in the 1970s, ironically by a Greek American, "Taki 183"- graffiti street art has evolved into a major artistic movement, with Greece as a hub of the international street art community.

In Greece, many people's lives dramatically changed during the crisis, leading to anger and disillusionment, as well to an almost innate resilience, sense of hope and humor. From the crisis also emerged the most unlikely spokespeople: a thriving community of graffiti or street artists.

Taking art into the streets, these artists have created a "social diary in public display." "The Street is My Gallery" highlights the work of more than ten street artists, whose art brightened the frayed walls of abandoned buildings in many neglected neighborhoods, mostly in the capital city of Athens. In doing so, the artists also provided an outlet for the often raw emotions of the people, especially the young, helping them navigate their own reactions and views, and inspiring a flurry of creative activity and initiatives to improve their surroundings and lives.

For details about the exhibition, including a sampling of the artwork and biographies of the artists, visit <http://www.nationalhellenicmuseum.org/exhibits/current-exhibits/street-gallery/>

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Located in Chicago's Greektown, the sleek 40,000-square-foot National Hellenic Museum at 333. S. Halsted St. is both contemporary and timeless, connecting all generations—past, present and future—to the rich heritage of Greek history, culture, art and the Greek American experience. The National Hellenic Museum, previously known as the Hellenic Museum and Cultural Center, has been fulfilling this mission since 1983.

For more information, visit <http://www.nationalhellenicmuseum.org> or call 312-655-1234.

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