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**STREET ART AS A CONTEMPORARY ART FORM
EXPLODES ON A GLOBAL SCALE**

The National Hellenic Museum hosts exhibition and programs on street art

CHICAGO, IL - The street art movement that exploded on the streets of New York in the 1970s has evolved into a global art form that allows artists to explore themes of despair, anger, resilience and hope in a powerful public forum.

"The Street is My Gallery" exhibition at the National Hellenic Museum showcases the ways in which street artists are sparking conversation in Greece; particularly in Athens, where a thriving community of street artists has emerged, covering abandoned buildings with images that speak to the anger and disillusionment that many Greeks felt as their lives were changed, often dramatically, during the recent global economic crisis.

The works in the exhibition, created at the height of Greece's economic difficulties, offer pointed messages for political and economic leaders and take on social issues such as racism, immigration, individual responsibility, and empowerment.

"The Street is My Gallery" highlights the work of more than ten street artists from Athens, some who are well known and others who wish to remain anonymous.

On Thursday, May 14 at 6 p.m., the museum will host a panel of Chicago street artists, including Stef Skills, Luis Raul Munoz, ABC Kills, and CHema Skandal, who will talk about the explosive growth and evolving status of street art locally and around the globe. The program, titled “The Visual Voice,” will include discussions on the roots of street art and its impact in places such as Greece, Britain, Germany, the United States, Brazil, Mexico, and the Gaza Strip.

A live street art demonstration will take place on the museum rooftop directly following the program.

“The images in ‘The Street is My Gallery’ are powerful, personal and thought-provoking,” says Elizabeth Martin, executive director of the National Hellenic Museum. “You can’t help but feel the emotional impact of these images.”

Street art has a strong connection to society and politics and has always been considered a defiant art that attracts and creates criticism.

Registration for “The Visual Voice” is available on the museum’s website, <https://www.nationalhellenicmuseum.org/the-street-gallery-visual-voice/>. “The Street is My Gallery” will be on exhibition during museum hours until October 2015 at the National Hellenic Museum, 333 S. Halsted St.

Photo 1:



Photo 2:



Photo 3:



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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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