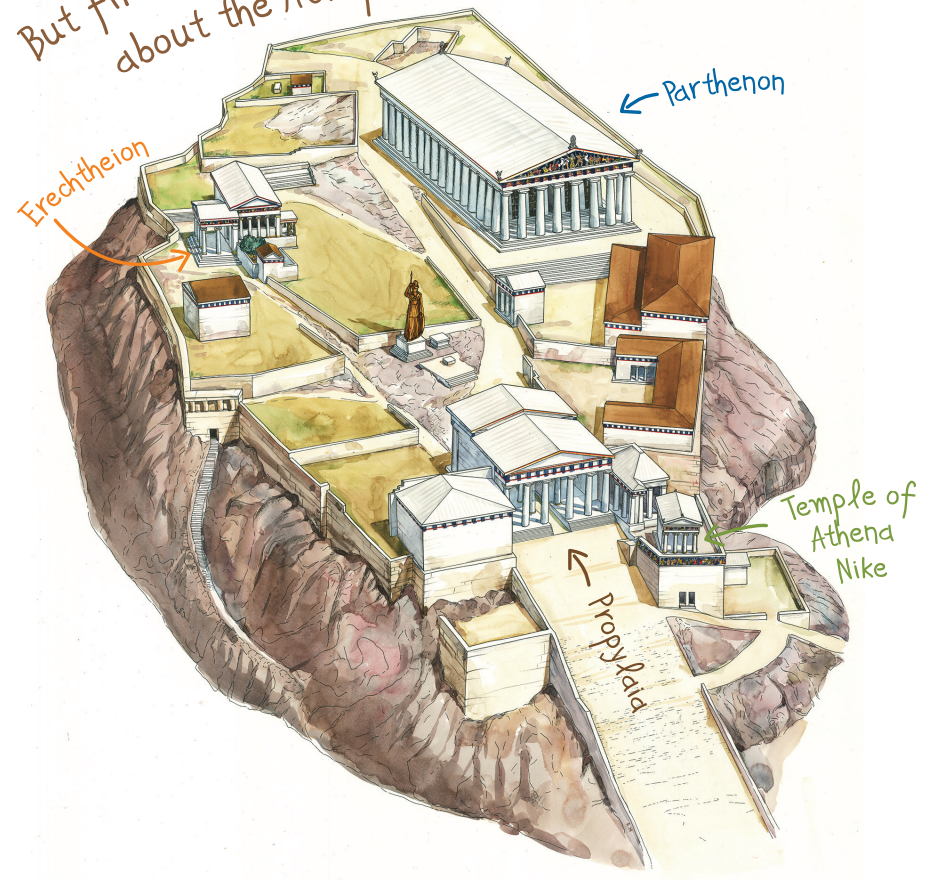


My name is Simos and I am one of the marble craftsmen of the Acropolis. I come from the Greek island of Tinos, an island of the Cyclades where the art of marble sculpting has a long history and is part of daily life on the island. Lots of people with different trades and professions work on the big project of restoring the monuments of the Acropolis but most of us are marble craftsmen.

Let's take a stroll together through the exhibition and I'll tell you all about life on the worksite and perhaps, some of the secrets of our trade!

But first let me tell you a few words about the Acropolis and its history...



More than 2500 years ago, in other words during the classical period, the four most glorious monuments of the Acropolis, the Parthenon, the Propylaea, the Erechtheion and the Temple of Athena Nike were built. Those buildings were constructed from white Pentelic marble, a beautiful but very difficult material to work with. Experienced stonemasons and sculptors worked to cut and carve it and created these unique buildings.

air pollution



bombardment



earthquake



Over the thousands of years the monuments of the Acropolis suffered damages from a number of events such as war, fire, earthquakes as well as the effects of serious air pollution. To deal with all those problems the country of Greece set up a special organization called the Acropolis Restoration Service.

But now, let us return to the exhibition...

Every day at the worksite we carve marble, we join together the fragments and we create supplements, marble "copies" of the missing pieces from the monuments. There are many happy moments in our day but there is also a lot of hard work. I would like to tell you what we feel about our work. Six simple words say it all and you can find them in the exhibition...

1

Labour



Our work is very demanding, physically and mentally. You need to be very careful, strong and patient to undertake such an important work.

Find this picture in the exhibition. What are the workers transporting?

2

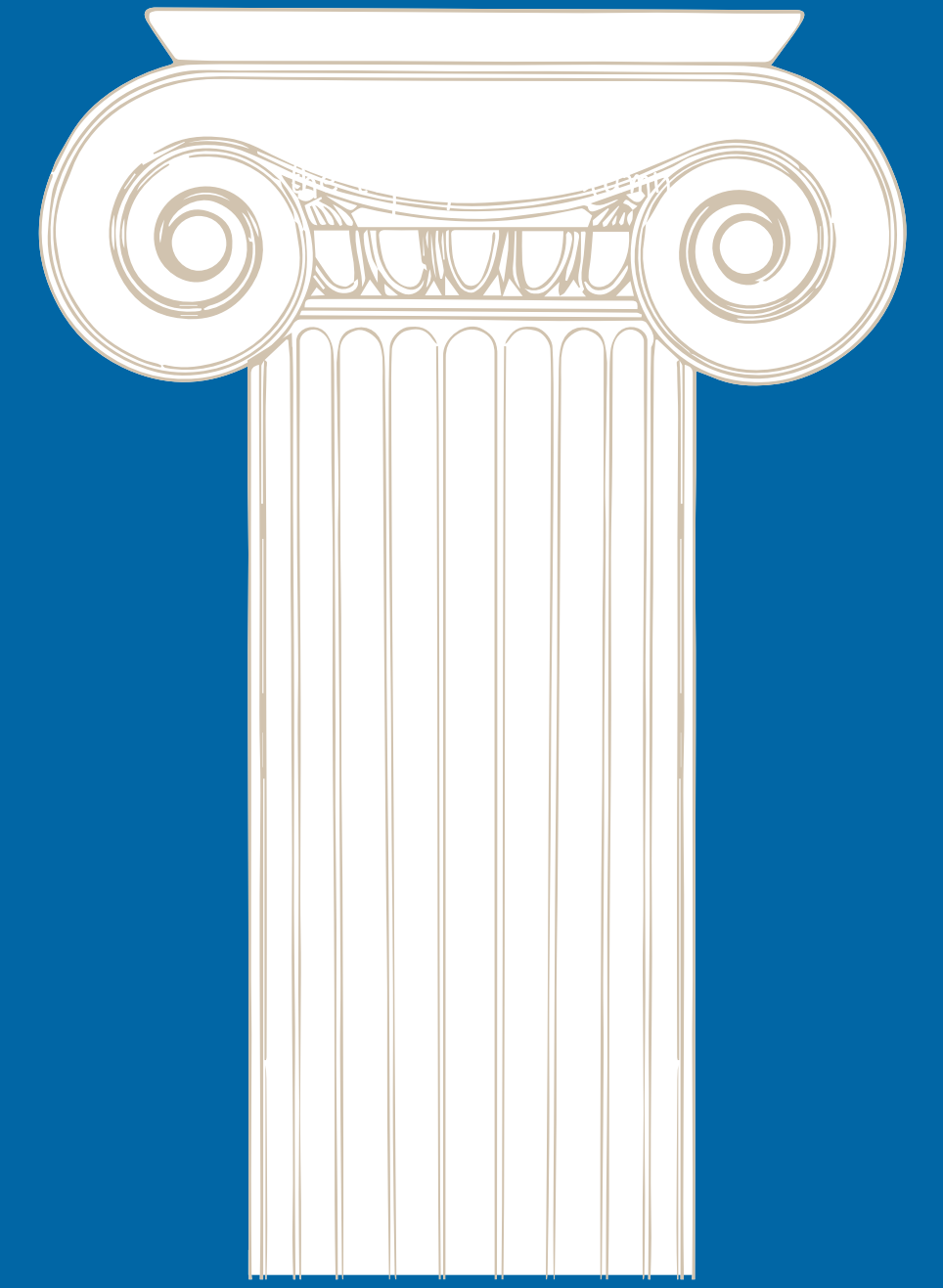
Self denial



Often we need to defy danger, making the monuments the first priority, above all.

Look carefully at the photographs: what difficulties do you think these people face daily in their work?

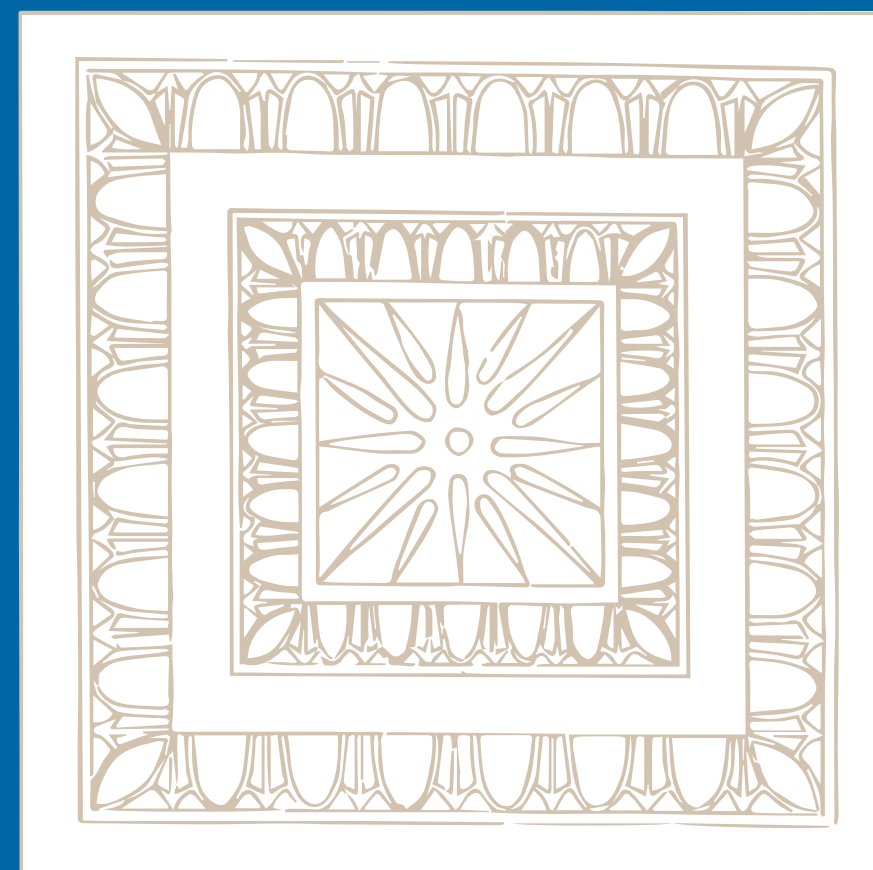
Colour in the Ionic capital, the top of the column, just as you imagine it!



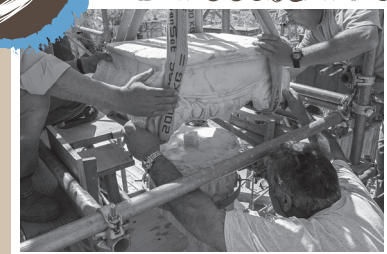


Look at the photograph with the coffers that covered the ceiling of the Propylaea. They were once colourful.

Colour in the design as you imagine it!



3 Collaboration



The work cannot be completed unless we all work together as a team, supporting each other.

Look at the huge architectural members presented in the exhibition and think about how demanding their transport and placing in position on the monuments must be!

Don't forget to watch the exhibition video about the restoration of the monuments of the Acropolis and the stories told by the marble craftsmen!

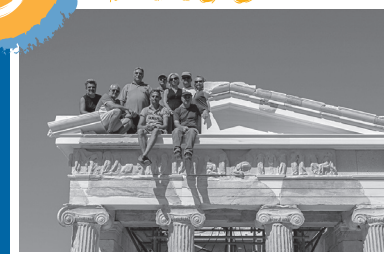
4 Zeal



To do this work you must love it. We don't worry about the effort and the time it requires as long as we get the best possible final result.

Look carefully at the photographs of this section of the exhibition and observe the tools used by the marble craftsmen. They are almost identical to those used by craftsmen in ancient times!

5 Pride



And of course when we finish a project, we feel very proud, happy and so satisfied that we made it!

Can you remember when you last felt so proud about something you achieved after great effort?



6 Companionship



We are a team with shared goals and challenges. We are united by many things that create strong bonds between us.

Marble craftsmen, archaeologists, conservators, architects, civil engineers, craftsmen and many others, celebrate together after we finish a project!

Today the marble craftsmanship is passed on from generation to generation. Additionally, the Preparatory and Vocational School of Fine Arts of Panormos, Tinos trains its students in this craft. Maintaining the tradition of the Tinian marble craftsmanship is considered so important that in 2015 it was included in the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Think about what you felt while you were looking at the exhibition!



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Photographs: Photographic Archives of YSMA

Family Trail

Chisel & Memory

The contribution of marble craftsmanship to the restoration of the Acropolis monuments



for children aged 8 years+

Welcome to the Acropolis Museum and the exhibition "Chisel and Memory"!

