

INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM DAY – EUROPEAN NIGHT OF MUSEUMS

The Acropolis Museum celebrates

Commemorative medal dedicated to the lion

On the occasion of this year's International Museum Day, the Acropolis Museum produced, in collaboration with the Hellenic Mint, commemorative medals dedicated to the **lion**. At the Acropolis of Athens, huge lions dominated the pediments of the Hekatompedon Temple of Athena, while miniature lions adorned bronze vessels of the sanctuary. Additionally, the Museum Shops will make available a special casket which will include the five commemorative medals that have been released so far, dedicated to the attic tetradrachm of the archaic period, the rooster, the hare, the raven of the Acropolis and the lion.

The Acropolis Museum will celebrate International Museum Day on **Wednesday 18 May 2016** and European Night of Museums on **Saturday 21 May 2016**, with the following activities and events:

Wednesday 18 May 2016:

Visitors will have the opportunity to learn about **the adventures of the Parthenon sculptures** from a new video at the atrium of the Parthenon Gallery on the third floor of the Museum. There, visitors will be able to meet Archaeologist-Hosts and attend the gallery talk about '*The history of the Parthenon sculptures in recent years*'. Gallery talks will take place in English at 10 a.m. and in Greek at 12 noon, at 5 p.m. and at 7 p.m. Participation is limited to 40 visitors per session on a first-in first-served basis. Registrations at the Information Desk at the Museum entrance on the same day.

Children up to 12 years old and their parents, or children visiting as part of a school group will have the opportunity to learn about the relationship of the ancient people with lions and other felines in the workshop '**Tracing the lion**' through stories, games and art activities. Workshops will take place in both Greek and English **from 12 noon to 7 p.m.** on the balcony overlooking the Archaic Gallery on the second floor of the Museum.

On this day, the Museum will be open **from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.**, **with free entry for its visitors.**

Saturday 16 May 2016:

On the occasion of European Night of Museums on Saturday 21 May 2016, the Museum will present in its entrance courtyard **at 9 p.m.** the **String Theory Ensemble**, which will perform a variety of songs, including Balkan music, fado, songs from the Far East, music from unexpected areas of the Greek discography and also music from the famous repertoire of **Argyris Bakirtzis** and of the **Himerini Kolimvites** ('Winter swimmers') band. Participants: Argyris Bakirtzis (song, storytelling), George Paterakis (concept-orchestrations, piano), Evi Mazi (flute, song), Konstantini Kyriazi (violin).

On this day, the Museum will be open **from 8 a.m. until 12 midnight (free entry from 8 p.m. onwards).**