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MUSEUM
OF BYZANTINE
CULTURE

Press Release

NORA OKKA

SPOLIA

***22 TRANSCRIPTIONS OF THE STONES OF THE SMALL METROPOLIS OF
ATHENS***

Museum of Byzantine Culture,

Thessaloniki 22 July 2026, 19.30

**THE EXHIBITION IS HELD UNDER THE AUSPICES
OF THE HOLY ARCHBISHOP OF ATHENS**



**ΙΕΡΑ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ
ΑΘΗΝΩΝ**

The Museum of Byzantine Culture cordially invites you to the opening of the exhibition, titled “SPOLIA: 22 TRANSCRIPTIONS OF THE STONES OF THE SMALL

METROPOLIS OF ATHENS” which will be held in the “Kyriakos Krokos” gallery on **Wednesday 22 July 2026 at 19.30** with free entrance.

The church of the so-called “small Metropolis” stands exactly by the church of today Metropolis. It was built at the end of the 12th century, on the ruins of an ancient temple dedicated to Eileithyia, the ancient deity who protected pregnant women. According to the prevailing opinion, the Holy Temple was built by the scholar and Metropolitan of Athens Michael Choniates, who, as a bearer of classical education, particularly loved the ancient past of the city.

The walls of the temple are entirely made of large unadorned marble stones and reliefs, which come from ancient Greek, Roman and early Byzantine monuments, while bricks have not been used anywhere.

The use of marble reliefs from ancient temples testifies to the existence of an educated elite who felt and appreciated the aesthetic values of the ancient world.

Nora Okka is an architect and a visual artist. In the context of her research and artistic work for the Small Metropolis of Athens since 2014, different series of the work have been presented in solo exhibitions at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences in 2026, at the Silversmiths Museum of the Piraeus Bank Group Cultural Foundation in Ioannina in 2025-2026, at the Patmian Culture Society in 2024, at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens in 2019, at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, United States in 2018-2019, at the General State Archives at the Historical Archive – Museum of Epirus in Ioannina, at the Patmian Culture Society in 2017 and at the Athens Conservatory in 2015-2016.

Her research has been honored with scholarships and distinctions from the Greek State Scholarship Foundation (IKY), the Swiss Confederation, the A. G. Leventis Foundation, the Vassilis and Eliza Goulandris Foundation, the Onassis Foundation, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, the Athanassios and Marina Martinou Foundation and the Schwarz Foundation.

Exhibition curation: Dr. Panayotis Kampanis, Archaeologist - Historian, Head of the Digital Applications and Publications Directorate,

Museum of Byzantine Culture

Museographic application: Anastassia Karadimitriou, Architect

Museum of Byzantine Culture

Information

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Exhibition duration: **July 22 – August 31, 2026**

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