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Thessaloniki, 30 October 2026

Press Release

The Museum of Byzantine Culture invites you to the opening of the temporary exhibition "Naturally Nestled in the Green Hills: The Cultural Heritage of Huizhou Ancient Architecture" on Saturday, 14 November 2026, at 7:00 p.m. The exhibition is presented in collaboration with the Anhui Museum of the People's Republic of China. It will be opened by the Minister of Culture, Dr. Lina Mendoni.

China and Byzantium, two great civilizations of the East and the Mediterranean, were linked for centuries by trade and cultural networks. Along with precious goods, these networks carried know-how, ideas and artistic influences. The exhibition belongs to this long tradition of exchange. It is the fruit of cooperation between the two museums, and aims to highlight historical ties and strengthen contemporary cultural dialogue between Greece and China.

The exhibition presents 44 authentic objects, mainly architectural sculptures of the Ming and Qing dynasties (1368–1912), which showcase China's architectural and artistic traditions. Dragons, stone lions, carved wooden windows and relief scenes testify to the skill of the craftsmen and the richness of the local decorative arts.

The historic region of Huizhou, in present-day Anhui Province in southeastern China, was an important commercial and intellectual center. Its prosperity under the Ming and Qing dynasties fostered a distinctive architectural tradition, with elaborately decorated dwellings, ancestral temples and monumental archways.

At the heart of the exhibition is the art of the "Three Carvings": sculpture in stone, wood and brick. Human figures, plant motifs, scenes from Chinese literature and mythical creatures express wishes for prosperity, harmony and longevity.

The exhibition also highlights the close relationship between Huizhou's traditional settlements and their natural environment, and the importance of preserving architectural heritage and its decoration as a vehicle of collective memory.

Exhibition dates: 14 November 2026 to 14 February 2027
Venue: "Kyriakos Krokos" Temporary Exhibitions Wing
Organized by: Department of Culture and Tourism of Anhui Province, China
Implemented by: Museum of Byzantine Culture and Anhui Museum
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