

PRESS RELEASE

17 June 2015

Two outstanding archaeological collections come together in Amsterdam

Unravelling the illusion of movement in Greek art

Between 26 June and 6 September, the Allard Pierson Museum will present the exhibition *Feint. Illusion in Greek art*. The exhibition is an attractive combination of 150 objects from the Greek collections of the National Museum of Antiquities in Leiden and a large number of showpieces from the Allard Pierson Museum's collections. The exhibition focuses on the theme of 'movement'. How can it be that we see movement in and on objects that by definition are unable to move, such as vases and statues? The two collections complement one another perfectly and provide the visitor with a fascinating answer to the question of how the ancient Greeks suggested movement in their art.

Nowadays we are accustomed to the idea that stationary objects can evoke the suggestion of movement. In the sixth century BC, the Greeks were pioneers in this field, and were the first to be able to suggest movement in paintings and sculptures. They did this, for example, by rendering lines of action in flapping garments, and by taking advantage of the viewer's expectations and prior knowledge: something starts to move because the viewer recognises the story that is being portrayed. This exhibition gives the viewer the same sense of amazement felt by the ancient Greeks when they were first confronted with images that appeared to move.

At the same time as *Feint*, two other exhibitions are being held in which the theme of movement plays a key role: *Hellas in Holland 25 years later* and *Greek tourism through art*.

In *Hellas in Holland 25 years later*, contemporary art confronts a movement that began centuries ago. In collaboration with the Filotechnia Foundation for Greek Culture, the Allard Pierson Museum is presenting contemporary works by Greek artists who were also guests of the museum 25 years ago. At that time, Jorgos Chronis, Toulia Liasi, Christina Linaris-Coridou, Lefteris Olympios, Angelos Tassopoulos, Eleni Tzatzalos, Harris Varsakis, Yiannis Vellis and Dimitris Xanthopoulos were up-and-coming Greek artists from the Netherlands who exhibited works inspired by the theme of 'antiquity'. Now, 25 years later, they explore the theme of 'movement', and works by these artists are interwoven with the *Feint* exhibition.

The presentation of colourful posters from the Greek Tourist Office gives an impression of the diverse range of posters that has been developed to promote Greece, from a retro poster from 1920 to a recent example from 2002. In this presentation, too, movement played a key role in the choice of posters.

In short, visitors to the Allard Pierson Museum will enjoy a Greek atmosphere this summer.

*Feint: Illusion in Greek art
Hellas in Holland 25 years later
Greek tourism through art*

25 June to 6 September 2015

Allard Pierson Museum

Oude Turfmarkt 127

Amsterdam

Opening hours:

Tues-Fri 10.00 – 17.00, Sat & Sun 13.00 – 17.00

www.allardpiersonmuseum.nl

The opening of the exhibition will take place on the afternoon of Thursday 25 June, between 16.00 and 17.30. Journalists who would like to attend are requested to send notification to m.woltering@uva.nl before 20 June, in connection with the limited number of places. There will also be an opportunity to visit the opening in the evening, to be held between 19.30 and 21.30. In this case, it is also essential to notify m.woltering@uva.nl of your intention to attend. Individual requests for interviews or exhibition visits are always welcome, of course.

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