

# The Hellenic Museum

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Museum in Melbourne, VIC The Hellenic Museum is committed to safeguarding the past, celebrating the present and promoting the future of Hellenic artistic and cultural heritage and its legacy. It does this by supporting the visual arts, film, music, architecture, history, culture and education. With an extensive permanent collection, dynamic contemporary exhibitions and high-quality education program, the Hellenic Museum plays an instrumental role in promoting an appreciation of ancient and modern Greece in Australia. Founded in 2007 by Spiros Stamoulis and based in the heart of Melbourne's inner city, the Hellenic Museum embodies a commitment to Greek history, art, and culture. The space hosts exhibitions from contemporary Greek and Greek Australian artists, and houses a permanent collection of antiquities. After announcing the securement of a partnership with the world-renowned Benaki Museum in Greece in 2013, the Hellenic Museum opened the exhibition Gods, Myths & Mortals in September of 2014, showcasing an extensive permanent collection of antiquities from the Benaki's treasures for the next ten years. The Hellenic Museum is housed in the former Royal Mint, located on the corner of William and Latrobe Streets. Since the surveying of Melbourne in 1836, the location has played a historical role: from public cricket matches; to housing balls and bazaars; and functioning as a police barracks. From 1869 the site took on new relevance as a branch of the British Royal Mint. Designed by architect J.J. Clark, and providing one of the few examples of the Renaissance revival style in Australian buildings, the Melbourne Mint's first coins were struck in 1872. The Mint continued to produce gold coins and bronze pennies until 1931 and later came to play a vital role in Australia's adoption of decimal currency. In 1972, after the need for the mass production of currency decreased, the Melbourne Mint officially closed. The building is actively conserved, open to the public, and heritage listed.

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