



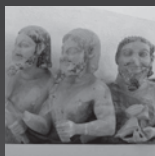
Seven ⁷ 'water voices' at the Acropolis Museum

A Day
at the
Acropolis
Museum



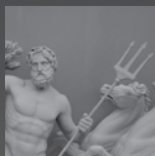
In antiquity, the spring of Kallirrhoe was located on the banks of the Ilissos River, not far from where the Acropolis Museum is today. From this spring Athenians collected the water for their bridal bath, as it was believed to bestow fertility. They carried this water in special vessels called *loutrophoroi*, which they then dedicated in the Sanctuary of the Nymph, on the south slope of the Acropolis.

Gallery of the Slopes of the Acropolis, Display cases 4 and 5



Water, as well as fire and air were considered by the natural philosophers of the Archaic period to be the chief elements in the creation of the world. The three-bodied demon from the pediment of the Hekatompedon (early 6th century BC) holds symbols of these three elements in its hands.

Archaic Gallery



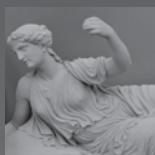
Poseidon offered the Athenians salt water, in his bid to become the patron god of Attica. They chose Athena's olive tree instead. Nevertheless, Athens continued to honor Poseidon and to be a supreme naval power.

Parthenon Gallery and model in atrium



Athens originally was located between two rivers, the Kifissos and the Ilissos. Their personifications, two muscular male figures, fill the corners of the Parthenon's west pediment, framing the scene of the contest between Athena and Poseidon.

Parthenon Gallery and model in atrium



The elegant reclining young woman in the corner of the Parthenon's west pediment is the personification of the famous spring of Kallirrhoe.

Parthenon Gallery and model in atrium



On the north frieze of the Parthenon, young men carry heavy jugs filled with water for the sacrificial ritual of the Panathenaic Festival. The blood-spattered altar had to be cleaned both physically and symbolically - it had to be purified.

Parthenon Gallery



In the Parthenon's east pediment, the horses of Helios (Sun) rise from the waves of the sea in one corner, while in the other Selene (Moon) with her horses dives back into the salt waters, thus marking the dawn of the day that Athena was born.

Parthenon Gallery