



EMBASSY OF GREECE
1A HOLLAND PARK,
LONDON W11 3TP

25 April 2018

Dear Director,

I am writing to you to explain why I did not attend yesterday's opening of the much anticipated –and I am sure overall successful- exhibition “Rodin and the Art of Ancient Greece” at the British Museum.

The truth is that I felt it was quite insensitive –and in a sense inappropriate- for the organisers to attribute Rodin's inspiration to the fragmented parts of the Parthenon Sculptures, which are in the British Museum's possession having been removed by Elgin from the monument, rather than attributing it to the Parthenon and the ancient Greek Art itself. Furthermore, I hope you will concede that to have Rodin's work and the Parthenon sculptures alongside photographs of the looted Parthenon, may fit the exhibition's publicity narrative, but it actually emphasizes that the impact of the sculptures is dramatically lessened by their de-contextualization - which as you know is a strong argument for their reunification with the rest of the sculptures.

In any case, what heartens me is that, today, any aspiring artist, student, or visitor can see the remaining Parthenon Sculptures at the Acropolis Museum of Athens in close visual proximity and juxtaposition with the monument itself in their natural environment. I believe that it is this more holistic experience that truly gives justice to the ancient Greek Art that inspired so many, as indeed Auguste Rodin, throughout the ages.

I hope you understand my position and I send you my warm regards.

Dimitris Caramitsos-Tziras
Ambassador of Greece

Dr. Hartwig Fischer
Director
The British Museum
Great Russell Street
London WC1B 3DG