



### Myrtis: Face to Face with the Past

Honoring the deceased relative is an important component not only of the religious ceremonies, but also of the moral system of the society, both in ancient and modern Greece. The dignified farewell of the deceased assists the emotional discharge of the familiar persons, as they fulfill their “duty” to their beloved. The same purposes, along with the preservation of the memory of the deceased, accomplish all the postmortem ceremonies, which are performed periodically on the grave.

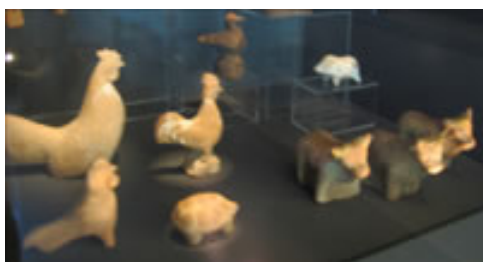


However, in certain occasions the relatives are not able to fulfill their sacred duty to the deceased. This was the case in the fatal plague that struck Athens between 430-426 B.C., during the Peloponnesian war. The large number of the cadavers did not allow for funeral ceremonies, but only for simple massive graves. In such a grave the eleven year old Myrtis was found, and was unexpectedly honored, 2500 years after her uncelebrated and premature death, with a scientific programme and an exhibition named after her.



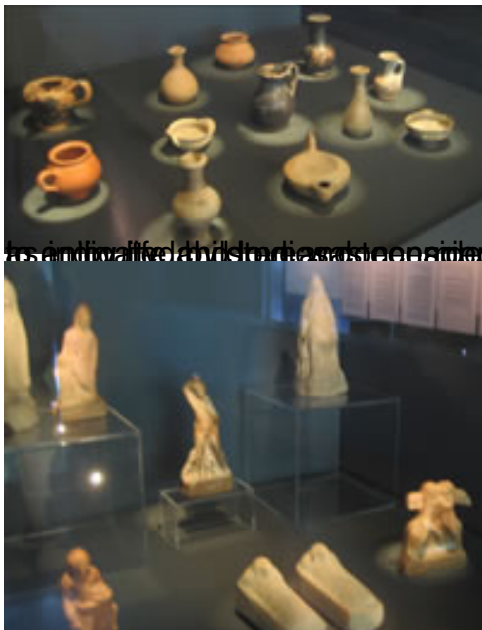
The Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki offers hospitality to Myrtis, not only because of the great importance of the scientific research, but also as a wish to honor the deceased girl from

Athens, as a symbol of all the children who are unfairly lost due to diseases and war.



In parallel, the “star” of the exhibition is surrounded by objects that once accompanied deceased children, who were fortunate to be honored by their beloved, as they deserved it...

We hope that these exhibits we now offer to Myrtis, will accompany her during her endless journey...



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One of the most important works of art from the Hellenistic period is the 'Boy from Thessaloniki', a marble relief sculpture of a seated female figure, possibly a deity or a noblewoman, with her arm raised. The figure is shown in profile, facing right, and is seated on a throne. She is wearing a long, flowing robe. Her right arm is raised, and she appears to be holding something. The background is a plain, light-colored surface.



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