

Athena Statue Restoration Report

The Athena Statue is dressed in peplum and aegis with a shield that includes the head of Medusa on the left arm. This statue is a model that was used at the end of the IV, and it started in the III century BC. The head of Athena with a Corinthian helmet is not pertinent to the statue and it derives from a model of the mid IV century BC.



Before Restoration



After Restoration

The restoration intervention of the work was completed in the month of November 2020 and the restored Athena provides a more balanced reading. This gives more continuity between the different marble inserts of which the statue is composed: original elements in Pentelic marble and irrelevant elements in Luna marble.



Before Restoration



After Restoration

Considering the uniformity of the incoherent deposits on the whole surface, a first cleaning was carried out with Japanese paper tablets and deionized water. This was performed in respect to five minutes of contact time in lukewarm water and rinsed with a latex sponge.

After having freed the surface of the first layer of the particles, several cleaning tests were carried out with applications of Agar-Agar and/or Japanese paper, varying the laying time (from 5 minutes to 2 hours).



Application of Japanese paper



Application of Agar-Agar



Removal of the particles after the tests



Varied types of cleaning tests



The total cleaning was performed in respect to the original patina and to the subtle traces of red and brown coloring that were found in some locks of the hair and behind the lobes.



Agar-Agar Cleaning



Traces of red and brown coloring



After the cleaning with Agar-Agar



The cleaning with the Agar-Agar has allowed a removal of the coherent and incoherent deposits respecting the “noble patina” on the marbled surfaces.



During and after the cleaning

After cleaning with Agar-Agar, the surface was treated with a pad soaked in White Spirit, removing any residue from the support.

At the end of the cleaning, the grouting was carried out and all of the cracks were sealed with mortar made of sifted marble powder and lime putty. The gaps were filled in and, where necessary, glazed with watercolors.



Before



After



Before



After



Before



After

