



Loukia Zygomala

Loukia Zygomala (1863-1947), wife of diplomat and politician Antonios Zygomalas, dedicated herself to the revival and promotion of the art of embroidery. From 1915 onwards, she began collecting embroideries and costumes from Attica and the surrounding regions, aiming both to preserve tradition and to promote folk art as cultural heritage.

The embroidery works she collected then served as models for new patterns and applications. She studied in detail the basic stitches and motifs of the embroideries. Drawing inspiration from folk decorative themes while preserving traditional stitches, she experimented with new chromatic and thematic designs, creating works adapted to the decorative needs of urban households of the time.

She established embroidery schools under the name "Attica. Greek Rural Embroidery" in the villages of Salesi (Avlonas), Varnavas, Marathon, Menidi, Liosia, Liopesi, Koropi, Markopoulo, Kalyvia, and Keratea, offering work to women, commissioning them to produce embroideries based on authentic patterns. Their works were distributed through a retail store in Athens (7 Vouli Street), thus stimulating the economy of the area. In 1936, the workshops and the retail store closed. Loukia Zygomalas collected whatever remained of the handicraft, embroidery, and weaving materials and displayed them in a small museum she had created as an extension of her house in Avlona.



ZYGOMALA MUSEUM



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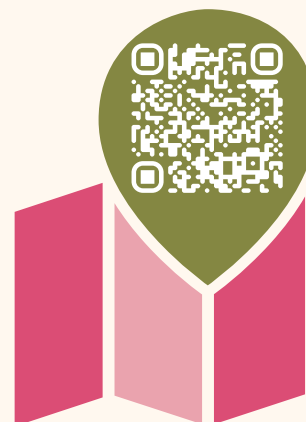


Museum of Modern
Greek Culture

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Daily, except Tuesday

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MINISTRY OF CULTURE

ZYGOMALA MUSEUM

Avlonas, Attica



The Zygomala Museum

The Zygomala Museum is the life's work and legacy of Loukia Zygomala. It comprises the Zygomala family residence and the exhibition hall. The exhibition presents Loukia Zygomala's collection of traditional embroideries, mainly originating from Attica, Boeotia, and Corinthia.

The exhibition hall presents Loukia Zygomala's collection of traditional embroideries, mainly from Attica, Boeotia, and Corinthia. These include embroidered costume components—chemises, waistcoats (tzakoi), woollen overcoats (sigounia), headscarves (bolies), belts—as well as sample designs and embroideries from sleeves and hems.

Also on display is the rich collection of embroidered objects, such as curtains, covers, furniture upholstery, and cushions, which Loukia Zygomala herself designed, drawing inspiration from traditional patterns, and had embroidered by her schools.

In a symbolic reconstruction of the Greek pavilion at the 1925 International Exhibition of Decorative Arts in Paris, the works of the embroidery schools that were distinguished and awarded are presented — such as furniture with embroidered fabrics, carpets, and lamps.

The Zygomala Residence

After the death of her husband in 1930, Loukia Zygomala decided to settle in Avlonas, Attica. She endured the second great grief of her life, as she had already lost her only son, Andreas, who was killed in 1914 at the age of twenty-four while serving as a reserve second lieutenant in the Northern Epirus struggle.

The manor-farmhouse, built within a verdant estate with finely crafted exposed stonework, a ground-floor arcade, and a functional floor plan, was designed by the architect Nikolaos Zoumpoulidis. In 1935, Loukia Zygomala added an additional section to her residence, where two years later she established a Museum to exhibit her embroidery works.

In the residence, where Loukia Zygomala lived until her death, selected household furnishings, small objects, family photographs, portraits, as well as personal belongings of her son Andreas are on display.