

Timeline / 68 years of Vakalo

1958:

Establishment of Vakalo under the title “free School of Fine Arts” by **Giorgos Vakalo, Eleni Vakalo, Panayiotis Tetsis, and Frantzis Frantziskakis** (Vouli Street, Athens).

1960–1965:

The School comes under the supervision of the **Directorate of Letters and Arts of the Ministry of Education** and is renamed **Vakalo School of Decorative Arts**.
Relocation to Akadimias Street.

1968:

The School moves again to Vouli Street and celebrates **ten years of operation**.
Introduction of courses in **Art Basics, Environmental Constructional Compositions, Photography, and Animation**.

1977:

Transfer of the School’s directorship to professors **Daniel Gounaridis** and **Timos Misios**, with **Eleni Vakalo** serving as the connecting figure with the founding group.

1979:

Relocation to the building at Ippokratous and Papatsori Streets.
Establishment of two principal fields of study:
– **Graphic Design Pathway**, directed by **Daniel Gounaridis**
– **Architectural Studies Pathway**, directed by **Timos Misios**

1980–1982:

Separation of specializations into:
– **Interior Architecture and Decoration**
– **Visual Communication and Advertising**

1983

Organization of an exhibition featuring the artist-teachers of the School, celebrating the **25th anniversary** of Vakalo.

1986

Systematization of the **scholarship programme**.



1988–1989

Launch of a **Postgraduate Programme in Industrial Design**, the first of its kind in Greece, with **Manos Vakalo**, Professor at the **University of Michigan**, serving as academic advisor.

Anniversary exhibition of the School's faculty at the House of Cyprus celebrating **30 years of Vakalo**.

1992

Beginning of collaboration with the **London College of Printing**.

1993

Publication of the first issue of the School's magazine **PERI**.

1994

Exhibition of Vakalo students at the **Foyer Gallery of the London College of Printing**.

Establishment of the **Research Group for Graphic Applications**.

1995

Publication of an extensive feature on Vakalo School in the international design magazine **Novum**.

Establishment of the **Painting Department**.

1996

Relocation to the School's **new privately owned building at 26 Lamprou Katsoni Street**, designed by **Timos Misios**.

Beginning of collaboration with the **University of Derby**, with studies recognized at the **Bachelor of Arts level**.

Inauguration of the School's exhibition space with a **retrospective exhibition of stage designs by Giorgos Vakalo**.

Publication of selected student works in **Graphis Student Design** (international edition).

1997

Launch of the **Postgraduate Programme in Digital Graphic Design** and the **Jewelry Design Workshop**.

Revival of the open competition **"Meeting of Young Creators."**

1998

Eleni Vakalo is awarded an **Honorary Doctorate** by the **Aristotle University of Thessaloniki**.



1999

First official **Bachelor degree awards** conferred by the **University of Derby**.

Inauguration of the School's **computer laboratory**.

Launch of **Vakalo Cinema**.

2000

Establishment of the **Postgraduate Programme in Visual Communication and Interactive Media**, recognized at the **Master of Arts level** by the **University of Derby**.

Eleni Vakalo is awarded an **Honorary Doctorate** by the **University of Derby**.

2001

Passing of **Eleni Vakalo**, the leading intellectual and administrative figure of the School for **43 years**.

2002

International Symposium "**Eleni Vakalo**" held at the **Goethe Institute**, co-organized with **AICA-Hellas**.

2003

Celebration of the **45th anniversary** of the School.

2004

Vakalo alumni hold **key creative and leadership positions** in the design of the **visual identity and communication of the Athens Olympic Games**.

2008

Anniversary exhibition of distinguished Vakalo alumni at the **Benaki Museum**, celebrating **50 years of the School**.

2009

Organization of the experimental project and exhibition "**city.reality.show**" at Technopolis, Municipality of Athens

2011

Daniel Gounaridis is awarded an **Honorary Doctorate** by the **University of Derby**.

Second International Symposium "**Eleni Vakalo**" at the **Benaki Museum**, co-organized with **AICA-Hellas**.

2012

Anniversary exhibition **concept : design : inter/national**, marking **10 years of the postgraduate programme**, within the framework of **Design Walk**.

Participation in the **Erasmus three-year program "Dance Architecture Spatiality" (2012–2014)**.



Organization of a **mobile exhibition inside the trains of the Athens Metro**, first of its kind in Greece.

2013

Vakalo is selected by the international organization **Type Directors Club (TDC)** - amongst seven other schools worldwide- to award a **student scholarship**.

2014

Passing of **Timos Misios**.

Launch of the **“Be a Student for a Week”** introductory programme.

2016

Launch of the **Bachelor in Digital Design**, offered **for the first time in Greece**.

Beginning of the two-year research programme **post-nostalgia** (2016–2018).

2017

Launch of events and campaign celebrating the **60th anniversary of Vakalo School**.

2018

The two-year Research Project, titled “postnostalgia” ended up with a very successful **exhibition** which attracted 1400 attendees at the **Romantso cultural center**.

2020

Delivering all of our modules through **Zoom online platform** due to Covid-19, by receiving the impressive **90,66% student satisfaction** at the end of that year.

2022

Launch of the **Master in Digital Design programme**.

2023

Celebration of the **65th anniversary** of the School.

2024

Vakalo’s staff members have received **148 design awards** during the last 5 years in national and international competitions.

2025

Purchase of a new annex (250 sq. meters just across the main building), which will soon become **Vakalo’s Hub**.

53 Scholarship Awards (144,290€), for first-class graded students.

Vakalo **adopts Mishka**, a mini-poodle dog, which becomes our Happiness Manager daily.