

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

American Academy in Rome Announces New Rome Prize Winners and Italian Fellows

Artists and scholars to join new director Avinoam Shalem in Rome

New York and Rome (July 23, 2020) – The American Academy in Rome (AAR) today announced the winners of the 2020–21 Rome Prize and Italian Fellowships. These highly competitive fellowships support advanced independent work and research in the arts and humanities. This year, Fellowships were awarded to twenty-two American and two Italian artists and scholars, who will each receive a stipend, workspace, and room and board for a period of four to seven months at the Academy’s eleven-acre campus in Rome. Given the impact of COVID-19, the 2020–21 residential Fellowship season will begin in January and end in August. Starting in September, Academy staff will host a series of online programs for the Fellows, including orientations, language classes, presentations, and individual support with their upcoming projects.

The Academy’s new director, Avinoam Shalem (2016 Resident), will begin his three-year term in January 2021, coinciding with the Fellows arrival in Rome. Currently the Riggio Professor for the Arts of Islam in the Department of Art History and Archaeology at Columbia University, Shalem specializes in the history of Islamic art, with a strong emphasis on Arab art in the Mediterranean Basin, the Near East, and the Levant, as well as in Spain, southern Italy, and Sicily. He also focuses on the art of the object, including secular and sacred aesthetics, as well as Jewish, Christian, and Islamic artistic interactions in the Mediterranean.

“We look forward to welcoming Avinoam and some of the world’s brightest artists and scholars to the Academy in January,” said Mark Robbins, AAR President and CEO. “Avinoam’s expansive and global scholarship will bring an exciting aspect to the season’s programming, which will focus thematically on *The City*.”

To ensure the safety of Fellows and staff, while also preserving its unique environment, the Academy community will be smaller than usual to allow for proper social distancing. In addition, next season AAR expects to welcome a very limited number of Residents and Affiliated Fellows, while the Visiting Artists and Scholars Program will be evaluated at a later date. All residential guests will be given the space to self-isolate upon arrival in Rome and public events are suspended for the time being.

Rome Prize winners are selected annually by independent juries of distinguished artists and scholars through a national competition. The eleven disciplines supported by the Academy are: Literature, Music Composition, Visual Arts, Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Design, and Historic Preservation and Conservation, as well as Ancient Studies, Medieval Studies, Renaissance and Early

Modern Studies, and Modern Italian Studies. Nationwide, 1,031 applications were received from 46 US states plus Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, and 15 different countries. The ages of the winners range from 29 to 59.

In addition to the Rome Prize winners, the Academy announced the recipients of two Italian Fellowships, through which Italian artists and scholars live and work in the Academy community, pursuing their own projects in a collaborative, interdisciplinary environment with their American counterparts. The Italian Fellows are also selected through a national jury process.

A full list of the 2020–21 Rome Prize winners and Italian Fellows, as well as the international jurors who selected them, is attached.

American Academy in Rome

Founded in 1894, the American Academy in Rome is the oldest American overseas center for independent study and advanced research in the arts and humanities. It is the only privately funded not-for-profit institution among the national academies in Rome. In addition to the Rome Prize and Italian Fellowships, the Academy invites a select group of Residents, Affiliated Fellows, and Visiting Artists and Scholars to work together within this exceptional community.

To learn more about the American Academy in Rome, please visit aarome.org.

Media Inquiries

Marques McClary
Director of Communications
212-751-7200, ext. 342
m.mcclary@aarome.org

Christopher Howard
Communications Manager
212-751-7200, ext. 340
c.howard@aarome.org

INTRODUCING:

The 2020–2021 Rome Prize winners and Italian Fellows

Meet the American Academy in Rome's newest group of scholars, artists, writers, and composers, representing some of the most talented minds in the United States and Italy.



ANCIENT STUDIES

Arthur Ross/Andrew W. Mellon
Foundation Rome Prize

Dillon Gisch

PhD Candidate, Department of Classics,
Stanford University
*Replication and Difference in Images
of "Modest Venus," 200 BCE–600 CE*

Samuel H. Kress Foundation/
Emeline Hill Richardson Rome Prize

Rebecca Levitan

PhD Candidate, Department of the History
of Art, University of California, Berkeley
*The Pasquino Group: Sculpture,
Conversation, and Resistance from*

▲ Christy Schirmer will treat the practice of river fishing in the Roman provinces as a lens through which we can more fully recognize the processes of social and economic change that followed Roman imperial expansion.

Ancient Rome to Renaissance Italy

Andrew Heiskell Rome Prize

Maggie L. Popkin

Robson Junior Professor, Associate
Professor, Department of Art History and
Art, Case Western Reserve University
*Souvenirs and the Experience of Empire in
Ancient Rome*

Millicent Mercer Johnsen/
Irene Rosenzweig Rome Prize

Christy Q. Schirmer

PhD Candidate, Department of Classics,
University of Texas at Austin
*Exploiting Riverine Resources in the
Roman Empire*

ARCHITECTURE

Rome Prize in Architecture

Katy Barkan

Lecturer, Department of Architecture
and Urban Design, University of
California, Los Angeles
Obelisks: A History of Uncertainty

Arnold W. Brunner/Katherine Edwards
Gordon/Frances Barker Tracy Rome Prize

David Serlin

Associate Professor, Department of
Communication, University of California,
San Diego
*Sensory Design and Architectural Empathy
in the "Progetto Ophelia"*

DESIGN

Cynthia Hazen Polsky and Leon Polsky
Rome Prize

Steven Parker

Lecturer, College of Liberal and Fine
Arts, University of Texas at San Antonio;
Curator, SoundSpace at the Blanton
Museum of Art
Futurist Opera

Mark Hampton/Jesse Howard Jr.
Rome Prize

Terese Wadden

Costume Designer, Brooklyn
The Clothes of Rome

HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION

Suzanne Deal Booth Rome Prize

Jean Dommermuth

Lecturer, Conservation Center, Institute
of Fine Arts, New York University;
Conservator, ArtCare, New York
*Sixteenth-Century Florentine
Canvas Painting*

Adele Chatfield-Taylor Rome Prize

Paulette Marie Singley

Professor, Department of Architecture,
Woodbury University
*Preserving Perishables: Strategies for
Conserving the Cultural History of Cuisine
in Contemporary Rome*



Rome Prize in Renaissance and Early Modern Studies

Rebecca Messbarger

Professor of Italian, Affiliate Professor of History, Art History, Performing Arts, and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, Washington University in St. Louis

Ghostly Light: How Criminal Corpses Animated the Italian Enlightenment

Samuel H. Kress Foundation/
Donald and Maria Cox Rome Prize

Lindsay Sheedy

PhD Candidate, Department of Art History and Archaeology, Washington University in St. Louis

Un'orrida bellezza: Religious Polychrome Sculpture in the Kingdom of Naples (1503–1714)

VISUAL ARTS

Nancy B. Negley Rome Prize

Jennifer Packer

Assistant Professor, Department of Painting, Rhode Island School of Design
Fantasy in the Hold

Additional leadership grant support for the Rome Prize program is provided by:

The Brown Foundation
National Endowment for the Arts
The Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation

Endowment support provided by:

Frank E. and Jaquelin G. Brown Fund
Anthony Clark Memorial Fund
Clarke & Rapuano Fund
Phyllis W. G. Gordan
Graham Foundation
Andrew W. Imbrie Memorial Fund in Music
Henry E. and Marian T. Mitchell Fellowship Fund
C. V. Starr Scholarship Fund

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Prince Charitable Trusts/Kate Lancaster Brewster Rome Prize

Kevin Benham

Assistant Professor, Jon Emerson/Wayne Womack Design Professorship, Robert Reich School of Landscape Architecture, Louisiana State University
A Line in the Land: Tracing the Transhumance

Garden Club of America Rome Prize

Robert Gerard Pietrusko

Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture, Graduate School of Design, Harvard University
Adapting the Viticultural Landscape

LITERATURE

John Guare Writer's Fund Rome Prize, A gift of Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman

Alexandra Kleeman

Assistant Professor, Department of Writing, The New School
The Taxon Cycle: A Novel

MEDIEVAL STUDIES

Marian and Andrew Heiskell/Anthony M. Clark Rome Prize

Danny Smith

PhD Candidate, Department of Art History, Stanford University
Dreaming in Public in Late Medieval Rome

MODERN ITALIAN STUDIES

Lily Auchincloss Rome Prize

Anna Dumont

PhD Candidate, Department of Art History, Northwestern University
From Design Reform to Fascist Craft: Women and Italian Textile Production, 1870–1945

▲ Matthew Ellis illuminates a neglected dimension of Italian colonialism in Libya—namely, the experience of Libyan migration to and exile in Egypt, and the critical role that Italian rule played in fostering a new era of mobility and cross-border politics between Egypt and Libya.

Paul Mellon/Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Rome Prize

Matthew H. Ellis

Professor, Department of History, Sarah Lawrence College
In the Shadows of Italian Empire: Libya, Egypt, and the Politics of Cross-Border Migration and Exile, 1911–1970

MUSICAL COMPOSITION

Elliott Carter Rome Prize

Katherine Balch

Composer, New York
Kalesa Ed Kaluca: Music for double bass (and)

Luciano Berio Rome Prize

William Dougherty

Department of Music, Columbia University
New Works for Konus Quartett, TILT Brass, Ensemble Resilience, and Ensemble Proton Bern

RENAISSANCE AND EARLY MODERN STUDIES

National Endowment for the Humanities/
Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Rome Prize

Carla Keyvanian

Professor, School of Architecture, Auburn University
Humanist History and Architecture in Sistine Rome



▲ Jennifer Packer's art focuses on the social, political, and psychological implications of landscape and architecture on conceptions of individual, collective, and national identity, in relationship to African diasporic communities.

2020–2021 ITALIAN FELLOWS

Enel Foundation Italian Fellow
in Architecture, Urban Design,
and Landscape

Francesca Berni

Architect, Milan
Novissimo Landscape

Fondazione Sviluppo e Crescita CRT
Italian Fellow in Visual Arts

Sara Enrico

Artist, Turin
Drape, Draped, Draping

2019 ROME PRIZE JURORS

Ancient Studies

Carlos Noreña, 2001 Fellow

(Jury Chair)
Associate Professor, Department of
History, University of California, Berkeley

Steven Ellis, 2013 Fellow, 2016 Affiliated Fellow

Associate Professor, Department of
Classics, University of Cincinnati

Molly Pasco-Pranger

Associate Professor and Chair,
Department of Classics, University
of Mississippi

Tara S. Welch

Professor and Chair, Department of
Classics, University of Kansas

Ann Marie Yasin, 2001 Fellow

Associate Professor of Art History and
Classics, University of Southern California

Design

Michael Bierut, 2016 Resident (Jury Chair)

Partner, Pentagram, New York

Andrew Blauvelt

Director, Cranbrook Art Museum

Stephen Cassell

Principal, Architecture Research Office,
New York

Julia Czerniak

Professor and Associate Dean, School of
Architecture, Syracuse University

Elizabeth Diller

Partner, Diller Scofidio + Renfro, New York

Calvin Tsao, 2010 Resident

Principal, Tsao & McKown Architects,
New York

Michael Van Valkenburgh, 1988 Fellow

Charles Elliot Professor, Graduate School
of Design, Harvard University;
Partner, Michael Van Valkenburgh
Associates, New York

Historic Preservation and Conservation

John Stuart, AIA (Jury Chair)

Associate Dean for Cultural and
Community Engagement, Executive
Director of Miami Beach Urban Studios,
and Distinguished University
Professor of Architecture, Florida
International University

Vincent J. Buonanno

President, Mile of History Association,
Providence, Rhode Island;
Chairman and CEO (retired), Tempel
Steel Company, Chicago

Lori Wong, 2019 Fellow

Project Specialist, Building and Sites
Department, Getty Conservation Institute

Literature

Francine Prose, 2006 Resident (Jury Chair)

Distinguished Writer in Residence,
Bard College

Ishion Hutchinson, 2018 Fellow

Associate Professor, Department of
English, Cornell University

Azareen Van Der Vliet Oloomi

Associate Professor of English;
Concurrent Faculty, Department of
Romance Languages and Literatures;
and Fellow, Kroc Institute for
International Peace Studies, University
of Notre Dame

Bennett Sims, 2019 Fellow

Assistant Professor, Department of
English, University of Iowa

Lysley Tenorio, 2016 Fellow

Professor, Creative Writing, Saint Mary's
College of California

Medieval Studies

Anna Maria Busse Berger (Jury Chair)

Distinguished Professor of Music,
Department of Music, University of
California, Davis

Suzanne Conklin Akbari

Professor of English and Medieval Studies,
Institute for Advanced Study

Theresa Flanigan

Professor of Art History, College of Saint Rose

Joel Kaye

Ann Whitney Olin Professor of History, Department of History, Barnard College

Lawrence Nees

Professor of Art History and H. Fletcher Brown Chair of Humanities, University of Delaware

Modern Italian Studies**Barbara Spackman** (Jury Chair)

Cecchetti Professor of Italian Studies and Professor of Comparative Literature, University of California, Berkeley

Pamela Ballinger, 2002 Fellow, 2011 Affiliated Fellow

Fred Cuny Chair in the History of Human Rights, Professor of History, Department of History, University of Michigan

Fabio Finotti

Mariano DiVito Professor of Italian Studies, Department of Romance Languages, University of Pennsylvania

▼ Natural materials collected by Francesca Berni in excursions across the parks of Rome will be staged in the studio as an abstraction of the landscape experience.

**Mary Gibson, 2003 Fellow, 2010 Resident**

Professor of History, John Jay College and the Graduate Center, City University of New York

Dietrich Neumann, 2014 Resident

Professor of the History of Modern Architecture and Italian Studies, Director of Urban Studies, Brown University

Musical Composition**Erin Gee, 2008 Fellow** (Jury Chair)

Assistant Professor, Department of Music, Brandeis University

Christopher Cerrone, 2016 Fellow

Lecturer, Peabody Institute, Johns Hopkins University

Sebastian Currier, 1994 Fellow

Composer, New York

Annie Gosfield, 2016 Resident

Composer, New York; Adjunct Professor of Composition, Department of Music, Columbia University

Renaissance and Early Modern Studies**John J. Marciari, 1998 Fellow** (Jury Chair)

Charles W. Engelhard Curator and Department Head, Drawings and Prints, Morgan Library and Museum

Wendy Heller, 2001 Fellow

Scheide Professor of Music History and Chair, Department of Music, Princeton University

Sarah Blake McHam

Distinguished Professor, Department of Art History, Rutgers University

Guido Ruggiero, 2012 Resident

Professor of History, College of Arts and Sciences Cooper Fellow, University of Miami

Eleonora Stoppino

John A. and Grace W. Nicholson Professorial Scholar and Associate Professor of Italian and Director, Program in Medieval Studies, University of Illinois

Visual Arts**Adam Weinberg, 2020 Resident** (Jury Chair)

Alice Pratt Brown Director, Whitney Museum of American Art

Mel Chin

Artist, Egypt, North Carolina

Susan Meiselas, 2017 Resident

Photographer, New York

David Schutter, 2016 Fellow

Artist, Chicago

Amy Sillman, 2015 Resident

Artist, New York

Nari Ward, 2013 Fellow

Artist, New York