

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME'S
MCKIM MEDAL GALA
SUPPORTING ITALIAN ARTISTS AND SCHOLARS**

AAR celebrates work of Patrizia Cavalli and Giorgio Moroder

ROME & NEW YORK — The American Academy in Rome will honor poet Patrizia Cavalli and music producer and performer Giorgio Moroder at the **McKim Medal Gala** on **June 9** in Rome at **Villa Aurelia**. The annual benefit, one of the highest-profile cultural events of the spring season, celebrates the honorees for their exceptional contributions to Italian culture, while raising funds to provide fellowships for Italian artists and scholars to live and work at AAR.

Patrizia Cavalli is widely considered to be one of Italy's greatest living poets. She has authored seven books of poetry, for which she has won numerous awards, including the Viareggio, Pasolini, De Sanctis and Cardarelli Prizes. In 2013, Farrar Straus and Giroux published *My Poems Won't Change the World – Selected Poems* (1974 - 2006), a bilingual edition featuring translations by distinguished American poets. Her one-act play *Tre Risvegli* will be presented at Spoleto's Festival dei Due Mondi (Festival of the Two Worlds) this summer.

An electronic music trailblazer, **Giorgio Moroder** made his mark as an influential Italian producer, songwriter, performer and DJ. Over the course of his storied career, Mr. Moroder has worked with some of the most famous names in music, including: Barbra Streisand, Elton John, Cher, Donna Summer, Roger Daltrey, Janet Jackson, Freddy Mercury, David Bowie, and Chaka Khan. Over the years, his work has garnered three Academy Awards, four Golden Globes, four Grammys and more than 100 gold and platinum records.

"The American Academy in Rome is pleased to honor the work of Patrizia Cavalli and Giorgio Moroder with the McKim Medal," said **Mark Robbins, President of the American Academy in Rome**. "Their creative exploration of words and music have had a profound impact in the shaping of contemporary culture and society both in Italy and around the world, engaging us all in a broader international dialogue."

This year's McKim Gala is chaired by **Ginevra Elkann Gaetani**, who also serves on the AAR Board of Trustees. An international audience from the

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worlds of the arts and humanities, including literature, music, fashion, design and business will converge on Villa Aurelia to enjoy cocktails in the Villa's gardens before dining in the Secret Garden. Honorary Dinner Chairs for the evening are **Mercedes T. Bass, Linda Douglass, and Valentina Moncada di Paternò**, along with Founding Dinner Chair **Verdella Caracciolo de Benedictis**. The gala kicks off a week of special public events at the Academy, including the annual **Fellows' Open Studios, Concerts, and Readings**.

"The American Academy provides important opportunities for Italian artists and scholars, allowing them to explore their creative and scholarly work in a truly international community. It is a pleasure for me to be involved with such critical work." said **Gala Chair Ginevra Elkann Gaetani**.

Corporate sponsors of the 2016 McKim Gala include **Benefactor Tiffany & Co. Italia**, as well as Corporate Patron Moncler SpA, and Supporters Bloomberg, Christian Louboutin, Citi, Credit Suisse, Fendi, Gagosian Gallery, Generali, Gianni, Origoni, Grippo, Cappelli & Partners, Giorgio Armani, Gucci, Maire Tecnimont SpA, Pinacoteca Giovanni e Marella Agnelli, Taodue Film and Valentino SpA, among many others. Wine for the evening is being provided by Marchesi Antinori, Castello Romitorio, and FIOL Prosecco.

Some of the **confirmed guests** for the evening include Bernardo Bertolucci, Paolo Sorrentino, Pierpaolo Barzan, Nicola and Beatrice Bulgari, Daniela Memmo d'Amelio, Domenico and Martine Orsini, Mirella Petteni Haggiag, Carla Fendi and Delfina Delettrez Fendi, Ileana Franchetti, Francesco and Daniela Starace, Ambassador David Lane, Olivier Berggruen and Anunciata von Liechtenstein, Martino Gamper, Pietro and Elisabetta Beccari, Silvia Venturini Fendi, Ornella Muti, Mario Martone and Ippolita di Majo, and Margherita Maccapani Missoni.

In addition to celebrating our McKim Medal honorees, AAR is pleased to launch the Enel Italian Fellowship for Italian landscape architects, urban designers, and architects. This new five-year partnership with the Enel Foundation, the research arm of the Rome-based multinational energy group Enel, will support one three-month Fellow for each of the next five years, beginning with the 2016–17 academic year.

The McKim Medal

The McKim Medal was established by the American Academy in Rome in 2005 as an annual prize that honors an individual whose work – most

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particularly in Italy and the United States – has contributed significantly to the arts and humanities. Proceeds from the McKim Gala support the American Academy in Rome’s Italian Fellows program, which provides a unique opportunity for Italian scholars and artists to live and work as part of the Academy’s dynamic international community. Previous McKim Medal laureates include Paolo Sorrentino, Carlo Petrini, Zaha Hadid, Renzo Piano, Cy Twombly, Umberto Eco, Franco Zeffirelli, Ennio Morricone, Miuccia Prada, Luigi Ontani, Riccardo Muti, and Bernardo Bertolucci. The McKim Medal was designed by Cy Twombly and handcrafted by Fabio Salini.

The American Academy in Rome

The American Academy in Rome supports innovative artists, writers, and scholars living and working in a dynamic international community.

Founded in 1894, the Academy is the premier American overseas center for independent study and advanced research. A not-for-profit, privately supported institution, the Academy annually offers the Rome Prize Fellowship and Italian Fellowship to approximately 36 individuals, following a competition in which independent juries select candidates across the disciplines of Literature, Music Composition, Visual Arts, Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Design, and Historic Preservation and Conservation, as well as Ancient, Medieval, Renaissance and Early Modern, and Modern Italian Studies. The Academy community also includes a curated group of Residents, Affiliated Fellows, and Visiting Artists and Scholars. This exceptional group of artists and scholars live and work at the Academy campus located in the Janiculum, one of the highest points in the city of Rome. To learn more, please visit: www.aarome.org.

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