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.

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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

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

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

 Architectural Empathy in the “Progetto Ophelia”

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

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.

Christy Q. Schirmer
PhD Candidate, Department of Classics, University of Texas at Austin
Exploiting Riverine Resources in the Roman Empire
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

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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 Yasín, 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 Eliot 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
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.