

**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](http://aarome.org).

### **Media Inquiries**

Marques McClary  
Director of Communications  
212-751-7200, ext. 342  
[m.mcclary@aarome.org](mailto:m.mcclary@aarome.org)

Christopher Howard  
Communications Manager  
212-751-7200, ext. 340  
[c.howard@aarome.org](mailto: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*

**TERRA FOUNDATION  
AFFILIATED FELLOWSHIP IN ROME**

**Gloria J. Bell**

Assistant Professor, Department of Art History and Communication Studies, McGill University  
*Eternal Sovereigns: Indigenous Artists, Activists, and Travelers Reframing Rome*

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

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

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Frank E. and Jaquelin G. Brown Fund  
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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**

Associate 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

**Terra Foundation Affiliated Fellowship in Rome**

Winners of this award are selected through a joint effort of the Terra Foundation Fellowship jury (listed below) and the Rome Prize Jury for Modern Italian Studies.

**Mark D. Mitchell (Jury Chair)**

Holcombe T. Green Curator of American Paintings and Sculpture, Yale University Art Gallery

**Silvia Bottinelli**

Senior Lecturer, Visual and Material Studies, School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University

**David Ogawa, 2019 Affiliated Fellow**

Associate Professor of Art History, Department of Visual Arts, Union College