

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME TAPS
LINDSAY HARRIS AS INTERIM ANDREW W. MELLON
PROFESSOR-IN-CHARGE OF THE SCHOOL OF
CLASSICAL STUDIES**



Lindsay Harris by Timothy Greenfield-Sanders

ROME and NEW YORK, 11 June 2014 — Art historian Lindsay Harris, FAAR'14, has been selected to serve a 1-year term as Interim Andrew W. Mellon Professor-in-Charge of the School of Classical Studies at the American Academy in Rome, beginning 1 August 2014. The appointment was announced earlier this spring by Academy Director Christopher S. Celenza, FAAR'94, based on the recommendation of a search committee. She will succeed Dr. Kimberly Bowes, who was appointed by the Board of Trustees in February to succeed Dr. Celenza as Academy Director.

“We are delighted that Lindsay has agreed to serve in this role,” stated Dr. Celenza. “Her intelligence, vibrant curiosity, and openness will make her a wonderful addition to the Academy's team and a fine partner for Kim and Peter Benson Miller.”

Dr. Harris is currently completing her term as recipient of the 2013-14 Marian and Andrew Heiskell Postdoctoral Rome Prize in Modern Italian Studies. Prior to being a Fellow, she was a Research Associate in the Department of Photographs at the National Gallery of Art, where she worked with Sarah Greenough and the curatorial team to organize exhibitions of photographs from the mid-19th through the 21st centuries. She received her BA (*magna cum laude* 2000) from Bowdoin College, and her MA (2004) and Ph.D. (2010) from the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University. Her professional experience includes designing and teaching courses at Amherst College and Northeastern University in Rome, working with Diane Waldman on an exhibition on collage for the Joan Miró Foundation in Barcelona in 2006, and with Robert Storr on the 52nd Venice Biennial Art Exposition in 2007. This fall, a search will be launched for the next long term Mellon Professor.

“The Search Committee had the good fortune of a very strong field to choose from and Lindsay Harris rose to the top during the process,” said Academy President Mark Robbins, FAAR '97. “Lindsay's area of scholarship is complimentary with that of our new director Kimberly Bowes, and her experience at the Academy provides continuity for this interim role.”

Dr. Harris' work focuses on the ways photographs both document and shape perceptions of modernity, from the nineteenth through the twenty-first centuries. Her dissertation, *Picturing the Primitive: Photography, Architecture, and the Construction of Italian Modernism, 1911 - 1936*, earned the Joan and Stanford Alexander Award from The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. Since then, she has published several articles and essays on the topic, as well as delivered lectures and organized various exhibitions. In addition to the Rome Prize, Dr. Harris is a recipient of the Milton Rogovin Research Fellowship from the Center for Creative Photography. She was also among the National Gallery authors nominated for the Lincoln Prize (Gilder Lehrman Center at Yale University) for best book on the Civil War soldier. Dr. Harris is currently completing her first book, *Photography and the Myths of Primitivism in Italy, 1904 - 1954*.

"I read recently that art historian Royal Cortissoz described the experience of the American Academy in Rome as an 'uplifting invasion of the spirit,'" said Dr. Harris. "My own year as a Fellow was just that, and I am delighted to be able to help next year's Fellows find similar inspiration during their time at the Academy."

The American Academy in Rome

Founded in 1894, originally as the first graduate school of architecture for the United States, the American Academy in Rome emerged in its present form – a hybrid center for the arts and humanities – by 1912. It remains the premier American overseas center for independent study and advanced research, a not-for-profit, private entity, the only one of the 30 foreign academies in Rome not supported primarily or entirely by its government. With an 11-acre campus on the highest point within the walls of Rome, the Academy annually offers the Rome Prize to approximately 30 individuals, following a national competition presided over by rotating independent juries of peers in each discipline, which include ancient, medieval, Renaissance and early modern, and modern Italian studies, and literature, music composition, visual arts, architecture, landscape architecture, design, and historic preservation and conservation.

The annual application deadline is 1 November. The Academy community also includes a carefully selected group of Residents, distinguished artists and scholars invited by the Director, Affiliated Fellows, and Visiting Artists and Scholars. To learn more, please visit: www.aarome.org

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