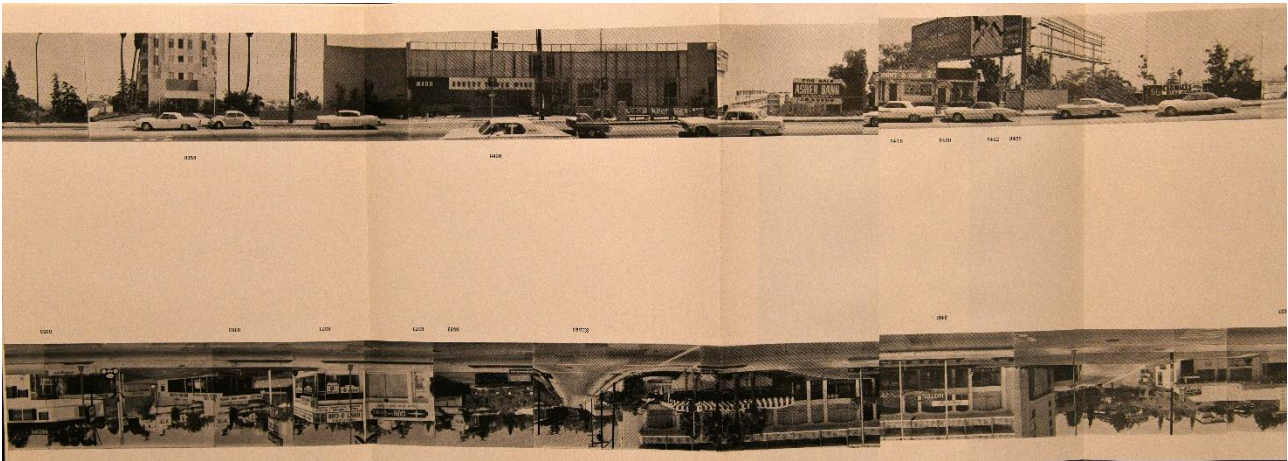


AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME

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The American Academy in Rome presents *Artists Making Books: Pages of Refuge*

*Exhibition features over 100 rare books from the early twentieth century to today,
including influential works created by Ed Ruscha*



Ed Ruscha, *Every Building on the Sunset Strip*, 1966, American Academy in Rome

Rome and New York (Sept. 23, 2024) – As the centerpiece of its public programming this fall, the **American Academy in Rome** (AAR) will present *Artists Making Books: Pages of Refuge*, an exhibition dedicated to the printed page as a space of experimentation, freedom, and resistance for artists. Featuring the influential artist’s books of Ed Ruscha, which the painter and photographer donated to AAR during a 2001 visit, the exhibition also encompasses rare books from Collezione Giovanni Aldobrandini and Collezione Claudia and Enrico Consolandi, two major private Italian collections, as well as important works from the AAR Library. Together, the exhibition showcases over 100 publications conceived and created by artists from 1905 to today. Advancing AAR’s broader mission to foster dialogue and exchange between artists, scholars, and creatives in the United States and the international community, *Artists Making Books* brings an eclectic mix of works by U.S. and European artists in conversation with each other. The exhibition explores the relationship between art, graphic design, the publishing world, and books, investigating their physical and material dimensions, as well as their power of circulation. The exhibition will be presented in Rome, **September 26–December 7, 2024.**

“This exhibition encapsulates the spirit of our work at the Academy,” noted **Peter N. Miller**, President and CEO of the American Academy in Rome. “First and foremost, we see ourselves as a seat for spontaneous and

generous conversation, inspiring new ideas that have the power to enrich the inquisitive minds of all who pass through our doors—not only our residents and fellows, but also local visitors to our gallery and library.”

Artists Making Books will highlight 14 of Ruscha’s works produced between 1963 and 1971; the Collezione Giovanni Aldobrandini, which includes work from artists of the Russian and French avant-garde, and of the Futurist, Surrealist, and Dadaist movements; and the Collezione Claudia and Enrico Consolandi, which exclusively explores post-war Italian art, with works by artists such as Piero Manzoni, Lucio Fontana, Alberto Burri, and others. Modernist books created by avant-garde artists such as Natalia Goncharova, Tristan Tzara, Fortunato Depero, and Marcel Duchamp will be shown together with works by Pop artists including Andy Warhol, Keith Haring, Kiki Kogelnik, and John Baldessari. Numerous artists who have completed residencies or fellowships at AAR will be featured, including Kara Walker, Jenny Holzer, and William Kentridge (former American Academy Residents); Ana Mendieta, Tony Cokes, Tricia Treacy, and Rochelle Feinstein (recipients of the Academy’s Rome Prize fellowships); and Luca Vitone and Nico Vascellari (from the Academy’s Italian Fellowship program).

“Books take center stage in this dazzling display of artists’ books. *Artists Making Books* showcases the ingenious creativity of artists and designers and explores material and conceptual experiments in print. It celebrates the relationship artists’ books make between authors, readers and custodians,” said **Ilaria Puri Purini**, Andrew Heiskell Arts Director, the exhibition’s curator.

The selection of works on display in *Artists Making Books* traces a history of how radical approaches to the book have led to the adoption of various graphic solutions that subvert, invent, overturn, and celebrate the letters, words, texts, and forms of a publication. Looking at the relationships between the avant-garde and the contemporary, the exhibition foregrounds how the book has been, and continues to be, an object of experimentation, a way to resist the constraints of the market and ultimately create a space of freedom. Bringing together diverse experiences and artistic interpretations, *Artists Making Books* investigates the intrinsic qualities of books as instruments of experimentation: from materials to dimensions, typographic printing to pamphlets, and 3D constructions to the origin and classification of sources.

“The artist’s book, as a medium of creativity and experimentation, serves as a near-perfect expression of our mission to cultivate innovation and collaboration within the humanities and the arts. This exhibition draws directly from the rich collections of the library and the visionary contributions of our Fellows and artists, whose works have left an indelible mark on the Academy,” said **Sebastian Hierl**, Drue Heinz Librarian.

A selection of books focused on the dialogue between Italy and the United States will appear in a dedicated display, and the public will be invited to explore and consult the publications housed in the American Academy in Rome's Barbara Goldsmith Rare Book Room.

"The American Academy in Rome, a magically historical venue for my art exhibition of 2001, is a treasure on earth. I am immensely proud to have my art books in its permanent collection," said **Ed Ruscha**.

The exhibition is curated by Ilaria Puri Purini, Andrew Heiskell Arts Director, and Sebastian Hierl, Drue Heinz Librarian, with Lexi Eberspacher, Programs Associate for the Arts.

Exhibition Design

The exhibition design is by Supervoid, an architecture studio based in Rome, led by architects Benjamin Gallegos Gabilondo, Marco Provinciali, and Anna Livia Friel, whose work focuses on space as a material and cultural construction. The studio has completed projects at various scales in Italy, Chile, France, and the United States and exhibited its work at the Venice Biennale, the Royal Institute of British Architects, and the Milan Triennale.

Gallery Hours and Programming

Artists Making Books: Pages of Refuge is on view at the AAR Gallery at the American Academy in Rome (Via Angelo Masina 5, 00153 Rome Italy) from September 26–December 7, 2024. Public hours are Friday and Saturday, from 4:00 to 7:00pm.

Special programming related to the exhibition includes:

- ***Collecting Books: Giovanni Aldobrandini and Claudia Consolandi in Conversation***, Thursday, September 26 at 6:30 pm – A dialogue between Giovanni Aldobrandini and Claudia Consolandi, daughter of Paolo Consolandi (1921-2010), who initiated the Collezione Consolandi, about the books featured in the exhibition.
- ***Pick a Book: Darby English (AAR Resident 2024) and Cornelia Lauf in Conversation***, Friday, October 18 at 6:00 pm – A dialogue between Darby English, the Carl Darling Buck Professor of Art History at the University of Chicago, and Rome-based art historian Cornelia Lauf, about the history of artists' books.
- ***The Craft of Books***, Thursday November 21 at 6:00pm – Interdisciplinary artist Tricia Treacy (AAR Fellow 2015) and painter Francis Offman will discuss the craft behind their new publications.

For the duration of the exhibition, the Barbara Goldsmith Rare Book Room will be open on the following Fridays from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm:

- October 11
- October 25
- October 27
- November 8
- November 29
- December 6

About the American Academy in Rome

Since 1894 the American Academy in Rome has functioned as a residential center for research and creativity. Its purpose has always been to enable highly motivated scholars and artists to immerse themselves in the experience of Rome, ancient and modern, and to be inspired by daily exchange with the other members of this creative community. The Academy has made an outsized impact on the intellectual and cultural life of the United States, and its Fellows and Residents have been recognized with 622 Guggenheim Fellowships, 74 Pulitzer Prizes, 53 MacArthur Fellowships, 26 Grammy awards, 5 Pritzker Prizes, 9 Poet Laureate appointments, and 5 Nobel Prizes. Approximately 35 Fellows are selected as winners of the Rome Prize each year by rotating juries in the different fields.

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