

AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME

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The American Academy in Rome New York Gala Honors Terence Blanchard, Carlo Ginzburg, and Jenny Holzer (2004 Resident)

Raising more than \$1.1M to foster the vitality of the arts and humanities, the American Academy in Rome honored the luminaries with the Centennial Medal



Carlo Ginzburg, Jenny Holzer, and Terence Blanchard. Download at the link [here](#).

November 20, 2024 – New York, NY – At the **American Academy in Rome** New York Gala on November 14, over 320 guests gathered to honor the Grammy Award-winning composer **Terence Blanchard**, Italian historian **Carlo Ginzburg**, and artist **Jenny Holzer** as they received the Centennial Medal, a premier honor awarded by the American Academy in Rome (AAR). Hosted at the New York Public Library’s Stephen A. Schwarzman Building, the event raised more than \$1.1M to advance the Academy’s mission of supporting visionary artists, writers, and scholars living and working together in a dynamic international community.

Alongside Gala Co-Chairs **Marilynn Davis** (Trustee) and **Mary Margaret Jones** (1998 Fellow, 2020 and 2023 Resident, Trustee Emerita), **Katharine J. Rayner** (Trustee) and **Cary Davis** (Trustee Emerita) served as Honorary Co-Chairs. The Italian Ambassador to the United States **Mariangela Zappia** was Honorary Gala Chair.

After a vibrant cocktail hour, guests enjoyed a seated dinner with a menu advised by **Alice Waters**, who alongside **Mona Talbott** founded AAR's Rome Sustainable Food Project (RSFP), which since 2006 has nourished scholarship and conviviality at the Academy with seasonal, nutritious, and delicious food served at the communal table. In line with the RSFP's sustainability principles, all ingredients featured in the dinner menu were locally sourced. **Mark Bittman**, recently appointed co-director of RSFP with **Kathleen Finlay**, joined in toasting Waters's contribution to the AAR community.

A live and silent auction invited guests to bid on experiences such as a visit to the studio of pianist, composer, and multimedia artist **Jason Moran** (2017 Resident), who has replicated his Academy studio in Stamford, CT, and a behind-the-scenes visit to an excavation site in Pompeii with Tulane University Classics Department Chair **Allison Emmerson** (2019 Fellow, former Andrew W. Mellon Humanities Professor). Guests also bid on the opportunity to visit the rare book collections of Claudia and Enrico Consolandi and Valeria Napoleone with **Ilaria Puri Purini** (Andrew Heiskell Arts Director), who drew from these repositories while curating the exhibition *Artists Making Books*, now on view at AAR. Artist, musician, and **Laurie Anderson** (2006 Resident) offered the opportunity to join her in her Tribeca studio for demonstrations of the custom musical devices she invented for her performances.

Gala guests received limited-edition camouflage baseball caps designed by Jenny Holzer emblazoned with words like "Truth," "Eternal," and "Solve," in keeping with the artist's text-based practice and evoking *For the Academy*, the large-scale light installation she completed along the banks of the Tiber River in 2007, conceived during her 2004 residency at AAR.

Calvin Tsao (2010 Resident and Chair of the Board) and **Peter N. Miller** (President and CEO) welcomed guests and celebrated supporters of the event and of the Academy alongside Jones and Davis before presenting the Centennial Medals Honorees.

Terence Blanchard performed excerpts from three of his own compositions accompanied by the **E-Collective** and special guests the **Turtle Island Quartet**, **Nicholas Newton** (bass-baritone), and **Adrienne Danrich** (soprano). At the after party, guests took the floor to dance to music by **BMAJR**.

Numerous Rome Prize Fellows and AAR Residents attended the gala, including artist **Suzanne Bocanegra** (1991 Fellow), architect **Stephen Cassell** (2023 Resident), **Adele Chatfield-Taylor** (1984 Fellow, 2020 Resident, and former AAR President), art historian **Joseph Connors** (1987 Resident and former Director), historian **Victoria De Grazia** (1978 Fellow and 2007 Resident), hagiographer **Carmela Vircillo Franklin** (1985 Fellow, 2002 Resident, and former AAR Director), architect **Richard Gluckman** (2017 Resident), literary historian **Stephen Greenblatt** (2010 Resident and Trustee), playwright and screenwriter **John Guare** (2013 Resident), artist **Bunny Harvey** (1976 Fellow), landscape architect **Walter Hood** (1997 Fellow, 2014 Resident, and Trustee), musicologist **Thomas F. Kelley** (1986 Fellow and 2002 Resident), playwright **Lynn Nottage** (2023 Resident), art historian **Louise Rice** (1986 and 1995 Fellow and 2008 Resident), archaeologist **C. Brian Rose** (1992 Fellow and 2012 Resident), Renaissance literature scholar **Ramie Targoff** (2013 Resident), curator and former director of the Whitney Museum of American Art **Adam D. Weinberg** (2020 and 2023 Resident and Trustee), and co-founders of the architecture studio Weiss/Manfredi **Marion Weiss** (2019 Resident) and **Michael Manfredi** (2019 Resident).

Also in attendance were **Anthony Ames** (1984 Fellow), **Suzanna Borghese** (Trustee), **Vincent J. Buonanno** (Trustee Emeritus), **Mary B. Burnham** (Trustee) and **Brad Burnham, Bill Cameron** (Trustee) and **Anna Cameron, Mary E. Frank** (Trustee Emerita) and **Howard Frank, Michelle Hobart** (Trustee), **Diane Britz Lotti** (Trustee Emerita), **Tony Marx, Gretchen Mol, Gwen and Peter Norton, MG Orender, Michael Straus** (Trustee), **Tod C. Williams** (Trustee), and **Aliza Wong** (Director).

The Academy is grateful to everyone who supported this year's New York Gala. Photographs of the event are available at the link [here](#). Please visit [AAR's website](#) for details about upcoming events.

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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 629 Guggenheim Fellowships, 75 Pulitzer Prizes, 54 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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