



## AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

5 April 2011

### **THE AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME CELEBRATES 400<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF GALILEO WITH THREE EXCITING EVENTS 7 – 15 APRIL 2011**

**Rome** - The American Academy in Rome will present an entire week of spectacular initiatives commemorating Galileo Galilei's demonstration in Rome of the telescope, which occurred on Academy grounds 400 years ago on 14 April 1611. To mark this historic achievement, the Academy is offering three events, beginning with an installment of the Academy's "Conversations That Matter" series on Thursday 7 April 2011 at 5pm. In addition, on Thursday 7 April at 6:30pm the Academy will open an exhibition entitled "Historical Astronomical Instruments from the Collection of the Specola Vaticana", organized with the Vatican Observatory. On Thursday 14 April 2011 the Academy will celebrate the actual anniversary of Galileo's demonstration at the precise site where it took place, the Academy's Casa Rustica, with an evening-long indoor and outdoor program of music, readings, art installations, multimedia performances, and participatory stargazing, entitled the Galileo Cabaret. The events are free of charge and open to the public. Admittance to the Cabaret is by tickets only; see registration information below to obtain free tickets.

The events are as follows:

#### **Conversations That Matter: Faith and Science on Thursday 7 April at 5pm**

An installment of the AAR's "Conversations That Matter" series exploring issues of science and faith will be held at the Academy's Lecture Room. The event is hosted by AAR Director Christopher S. Celenza, FAAR'94, with Brother Guy Consolmagno, S.J. (author of *Brother Astronomer* and *Turn Left at Orion*, and curator of the Vatican Meteorite Collection at Castel Gandolfo).

#### **Exhibition Opening Thursday 7 April from 6:30pm to 8pm:**

"Historical Astronomical Instruments from the Collection of the Specola Vaticana," an exhibition organized with the Vatican Observatory in the Academy's Gallery, will feature works from one of the world's finest collections of historical instruments for observing the sky and identifying stars and celestial bodies. Also contributing to the exhibition is Florence's Museo Galileo, which is loaning to the AAR a replica of a 1610 Galileo telescope, which travelled on the space shuttle Atlantis in 2009. The exhibit will be on view Friday 8 April through Friday 15 April from 9:30am-12:30pm and on Thursday April 14 from 7pm to 11pm.

#### **Galileo Cabaret Thursday 14 April from 7pm to 11pm:**

An evening-long indoor and outdoor program of music, readings, art installations, multimedia performances, and participatory stargazing will take place in the Academy's Gallery and Bass Garden.

The event will include performances by Culture Brothers, Huck Hodge (Luciano Berio Rome Prize recipient) with Karen Yasinsky (Joseph H. Hazen Rome Prize recipient); Paul Rudy (Elliott Carter

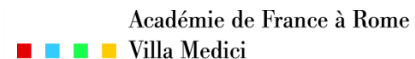
Rome Prize recipient) with Erika Eckert; and also Dava Sobel, author of *Galileo's Daughter*.

Presenting installations throughout the American Academy will be Enzo Aronica, N[ever]land (projections on Casa Rustica exterior); Renaud Auguste-Dormeuil, Villa Medici, Rome ("I Will Keep a Light Burning"); Helidon Gjergji (intervention in 16th century basement levels of Casa Rustica); Giovanna Latis, AAR Italian Affiliated Fellow in the Arts ("Brancusi 03" in Gallery); Luigi Ontani ("GalileoChiniLei", in Gallery); Paola Pivi, AAR Italian Affiliated Fellow in the Arts ("Leoni", in Gallery); Marco Raparelli, AAR Italian Affiliated Fellow in the Arts (collectible event T-shirts); Adrian Van Allen, Cynthia Hazen Polsky and Leon Polsky Rome Prize recipient (replica of Galileo telescope, to be exhibited in the Gallery and also for stargazing). Stargazing is provided by the Musei Scientifici Roma.

**Ticket Information for Thursday 14 April 2011:** The total number of tickets for the event is limited to 400. Preregistration is necessary. Please contact: [galileo400@aarome.org](mailto:galileo400@aarome.org). Each adult must present an individual ticket at the entrance; accompanying children (18 and under) do not need a ticket. **No tickets will be available at the door on the evening of the event.**

Each of these Galileo-related events at the American Academy in Rome is made possible through the generous support of Finmeccanica.

The Academy's Rome Sustainable Food Project and associated vendors will cater the event with food and drink. Generously offering wine for the event is Consorzio Tutela Vino Bardolino DOC; offering coffee is Caffè Haiti; and Madi is offering artisan olive oil. Also featured are Domus Birrea and La Tradizione.



**Press contact:** Email: [press@aarome.org](mailto:press@aarome.org) tel.: +39 06 5846431 or +1 212 751 7200 ext. 345

### The American Academy in Rome

Established in 1894 and chartered by an Act of Congress in 1905, the American Academy in Rome is a leading center for independent studies and advanced research in the arts and humanities. Situated on the Janiculum, the highest hill within the walls of Rome, the Academy today remains a private institution supported by gifts from individuals, foundations, corporations, and the memberships of colleges, universities, and arts and cultural organizations as well as by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Each year, through a national competition, the Rome Prize is awarded to approximately thirty individuals working in ancient, medieval, Renaissance and early modern, or modern Italian studies, and architecture, landscape architecture, design, historic preservation and conservation, literature, musical composition, or visual art. The application deadline is November 1st. The Academy community also includes a select group of Residents, distinguished artists and scholars invited by the Director, as well as Affiliated Fellows, and Visiting Artists and Scholars.

For more information please visit: [www.aarome.org](http://www.aarome.org)