

# AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME

**The American Academy in Rome to celebrate 2024 McKim Medal Gala  
on June 5, 2024 at Villa Aurelia, Rome**

**Gala will honor Sofia Coppola with the McKim Medal**  
In recognition of her visionary storytelling through film and narrative

*The annual event, that raises funds to support artists and scholars at the American Academy in Rome, will include the official announcement of a new Fellowship sponsored by Bvlgari in collaboration with Whitney Museum and MAXXI*

The **American Academy in Rome** will honor **Sofia Coppola** at the 18<sup>th</sup> edition of the McKim Medal Gala at **Villa Aurelia on June 5, 2024**.

The **McKim Medal** marks the profound relationship between Italy and the United States and recognizes the works of individuals who have contributed to the intense artistic and humanistic dialogue between the two nations. This cultural exchange has been at the heart of life at the American Academy in Rome for 130 years.

This year, the prestigious award will be presented to visionary filmmaker Sofia Coppola for her artistry, innovation, and commitment to storymaking and storytelling as a director and producer.

The annual fundraising event brings together the most brilliant people from the worlds of business, politics, art, fashion and entertainment supports the Academy's fellowships in the arts and the humanities. The American Academy in Rome is the only international academy in the city that also offers fellowships to Italian artists and scholars. The proceeds raised at the gala support the Academy's interdisciplinary community and promotes the exchange of innovative practices between American and Italian artists and scholars all within the context of the city of Rome.

In this vein, the American Academy will also use the occasion of the McKim Medal Gala to announce an exciting new collaboration between **Bvlgari**, the **Whitney Museum of American Art**, and the **MAXXI – National Museum of 21st Century Arts, Rome**.

The 2024 McKim Medal Gala, a celebration of the presence of the American Academy in the Eternal City for 130 years, is bookended by two important historical commemorations that mark the significant relationship between Italy and the United States - the 80th anniversary of the Liberation of Rome, 4 June 1944, and D-Day, 6 June 1944.

The event is organized by the gala committee, led by Gala Chair **Margherita Marengi Vaselli**, together with the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the American Academy in Rome **Calvin Tsao**, President **Peter N. Miller**, Director **Aliza S. Wong**, and Honorary Gala Chairs **Ginevra Elkann**, **Carla Markell** and **Maria Teresa Venturini Fendi**. Artist **Rachel Feinstein** will present the award to Sofia Coppola.

The **Carla Fendi Rome Prize** will also be conferred by **Nina Pons Fendi** to artist **Kamrooz Aram**, who held his residency at the American Academy in 2024.

The Media Partner for the 2024 McKim Medal Gala is **Rai Cultura**.

**Sponsors of the 2024 McKim Medal Gala** include: *Presenting Sponsor* Bvlgari SpA; *Corporate Benefactor* Fondazione Valentino Garavani e Giancarlo Giammetti; *Corporate Patron* Gagolian; Lottomatica Group; *Corporate Supporter* Amanita; Assicurazioni Generali; Blazé Milano; Bloomberg; Carla Fendi Foundation; Chanel; Chiomenti; Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle LLP; Fendi; Fincantieri SpA; Gianni & Origoni; Giorgio Armani; Jefferies; Valentino SpA.

Wine and cocktails Sponsors of the evening: Cantina Paolo and Noemia d'Amico; FIOL Prosecco D.O.C.; Belvedere Vodka.

Media Partner



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## **Sofia Coppola**

Sofia Coppola's eighth film is "Priscilla" based on the memoir "Elvis and Me" by Priscilla Beaulieu Presley. The film, starring Cailee Spaeny and Jacob Elordi was released by A24 and Mubi.

Her films include "The Virgin Suicides" (1999), "Lost in Translation" (2003) for which she won an Academy Award for Best Screenplay, "Marie Antoinette" (2006), "Somewhere" (2010), "The Bling Ring" (2013), "The Beguiled" (2017) whereby she made history as only the second woman to win the Best Director prize at the Cannes Film Festival, and "On The Rocks" (2020). In addition to her film career, Sofia directed a production of Verdi's classic, "La Traviata" at the Rome Opera House, with fashion designer Valentino Garavani and production designer Nathan Crowley. In 2023, Mack Books released her book SOFIA COPPOLA ARCHIVE, currently in its fifth reprinting.

## **The McKim Medal**

Sofia Coppola joins distinguished previous McKim Medal Gala laureates such as **Massimo Bottura, Matteo Garrone, Cecilia Alemani, Luca Guadagnino, Paola Antonelli, Roberto Benigni, Sir Antonio Pappano, Paolo Sorrentino, Carlo Petrini, Renzo Piano, Cy Twombly, Umberto Eco, Franco Zeffirelli, Ennio Morricone, Miuccia Prada, Luigi Ontani, Riccardo Muti** and **Bernardo Bertolucci**. The Medal, dedicated to architect Charles Follen McKim (1847-1909), one of the founders of the American Academy in Rome, was designed by **Cy Twombly** and handcrafted by **Bulgari**.

## **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, 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.

The American Academy offers the city of Rome a rich public program of events involving scholars and international guests – including, this season, Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Andrew Sean Greer, Grammy Award-winning composer Mason Bates and MacArthur Fellow artist Xu Bing – with talks, lectures and conversations, exhibitions, performances and concerts.

The American Academy in Rome is preparing to welcome its 2024-25 Fellows, including the Italian Fellows announced in the Rome Prize Ceremony in New York, on April 25, 2024: Giuseppe Grant (Enel Foundation Italian Fellow in Architecture, Urban Design, and Landscape Architecture), Daria Scia (Italian Fellowship in Musical Composition), and Eugenio Villa (Italian Fellowship in Renaissance and Early Modern Studies). The work of the current season's Fellows will be presented on 6 June, when the Academy will open its doors to the city for the Open Studios event.

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## QUOTES

### ***From Sofia Coppola***

It's an honor to be receiving this award from the American Academy in Rome, and to be supporting the great work of the Academy with the artists and scholars in its interdisciplinary community. Rome has a true place in my heart.

### ***From Peter N. Miller, President of the American Academy in Rome***

The Academy's McKim Medal Gala is a star-studded annual tribute to the Academy, but from another perspective it represents the depth of the Academy's commitment to Rome and the meaningfulness of its long residence in this city.

### ***From Calvin Tsao, Chair of the Board of Trustees, the American Academy in Rome***

On the occasion of the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the American Academy in Rome and the 80<sup>th</sup> commemoration of the Liberation of Rome and the landing at D-Day, the McKim Medal Gala will celebrate the historic relationship that the United States and Italy has shared and the special welcome that the city of Rome has always shown to the Academy. We are so grateful to the city, our Italian Trustees, and this incredible Roman community for allowing us to create, dream, and flourish here.

### ***From Margherita Marengi Vaselli, Chair of the Gala Committee***

The gala not only serves as a bridge between the Academy and the city of Rome but also as a radiant moment to honor and elevate the remarkable achievements in arts and culture. This year we decided to honor the talented Italo-American director Sofia Coppola for her visionary storytelling, artistic brilliance, and bold visual aesthetic. We are thrilled to celebrate her remarkable career and cultural influence with this distinguished recognition.

### ***From Aliza Wong, Director of the American Academy in Rome***

The American Academy in Rome and the Gala Committee are proud to honor Sofia Coppola for her brilliance, her generosity, her visionary filmmaking. We recognize her genius in insisting on storytelling and telling stories as they need to be shared. The Academy hopes to provide the same type of freedom of expression and communication and profundity that Sofia offers her characters in her award-winning films.

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