

I NOSTRI PINI DI ROMA: A WORKSHOP

November 16, 2023

AAR

PART I

Presentations

15:00 - 15:10 Opening Remarks – Peter N. Miller, President
Introductions – Marla Stone, Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities

15:10 - 15:30 **Thaïsa Way (2016 Fellow, 2023 Resident)**
‘Plant Life in the City / Rome and its Trees’
Director, Garden and Landscape Studies, Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collections; Professor Emerita, Landscape Architecture, College of Built Environments, University of Washington

15:30 - 15:50 **Phoebe Lickwar (2022 Fellow)**
‘Future Forests: The Pineta of Villa Doria Pamphilj’
Associate Professor and Graduate Advisor, Landscape Architecture, University of Texas at Austin

15:50 - 16:05 Q&A

Coffee Break

16:30 - 16:50 **Lara Pucci**
‘Pietra e alberi di lunga vita: Pine Trees in Fascism’s Transformation of the Roman Landscape’
Assistant Professor in Art History, University of Nottingham

16:50 - 17:10 **Peter Benson Miller (Andrew Heiskell Arts Director, 2013–2019; AAR Advisor/Connector)**
‘Pining For Rome: American Artists and the Eternal City’
Art historian, curator, Fondazione Nicola del Roscio

17:10 - 17:30 **Giulia Caneva**
‘The Stone Pine: An Element of Nature Strongly Rooted in Our Culture’
Professor of Environmental and Applied Botany, Department of Science, Roma Tre

17:30 - 17:45 Q&A

Coffee Break

PART II

Conversations/Conversazioni

18:00 - 18:55 **Giulia Caneva**
Professor of Environmental and Applied Botany, Department of Science, Roma Tre

Miranda Mote (2024 Fellow)
Lecturer and Studio Coordinator, Program in Architecture, University of Pennsylvania; Founding educator at Botanography

Alessandra Vinciguerra
Bass Superintendent of Gardens

Moderator – Ilaria Puri Purini, Andrew Heiskell Arts Director

18:55 - 19:00 Closing Remarks – Aliza Wong, Director

19:00 - 20:00 **I Nostri Pini di Roma: Recollections and Possibilities**
featuring objects and materials from AAR artists and scholars and the Photographic Archive

Aperitivo

I NOSTRI PINI DI ROMA: A WORKSHOP

November 16, 2023

AR
A

PRESENTATIONS

THAÏSA WAY

'Plant Life in the City/ Rome and its Trees'

Abstract

James Stuart declared in 1771 that “a garden in a street is not less absurd than a street in a garden.” And yet today street trees are ubiquitous, or so we think. There is a much more complicated history, of course. Threading through this history are the ways that trees have served in multiple ways to shape our lands. Most specifically, trees reveal life in the urban landscape more than most any other flora or fauna. Trees have been important in Christianity, as noted in Genesis (verses 11–12), in the first psalm (Psalm 1:3), and finally the idea of wisdom as a tree (Proverbs 3:18). Trees have played an important role in the Roman landscape but not always as street trees, not always as pine trees. Early Romans wrote of advice on the cultivation of trees including avoiding damage to roots, digging a large enough hole, and marking a tree with red ochre on one side before it was dug up, so that it could be replanted with the same orientation to sun and wind. The trees came into the city as they were planted and cultivated along agricultural lands and behind garden walls, only later coming all the way into the public realm. This talk will explore some of the ways trees have historically brought life, beauty, and health to urban landscapes, with a focus on Rome and its lands.

Bio

Thaïsa Way is the Director for Garden and Landscape Studies at Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection, a Harvard University research institution located in Washington, DC. She teaches and researches history, theory, and design in the College of Built Environments, University of Washington (currently on leave). She was awarded the Rome Prize in Landscape Architecture at the American Academy in Rome in 2016. Way's publications focus on questions of history, gender, and shaping the landscape. Her book, *Unbounded Practices: Women, Landscape Architecture, and Early Twentieth Century Design* (University of Virginia Press, 2009) was awarded the J.B. Jackson Book Award. A more recent book, *From Modern Space to Urban Ecological Design: the Landscape Architecture of Richard Haag* (University of Washington Press, 2015), explores post-industrial cities and the practice of landscape architecture. Additional publications include *Now Urbanism: The Future City is Here* (Routledge, 2014), coedited by Dr. Way with Ken Yocom, Ben Spencer, and Jeff Hou; *River Cities, City Rivers* (Harvard University Press, 2018), a collection of essays contributing to urban environmental history; *GGN 1999-2018* (Timber Press, 2018); and *Urban Landscapes: Segregation and Resistance in the Landscapes of the Americas* (Harvard University Press, 2023) (coedited with Eric Avila). Way is focused on a broad effort to challenge the canon of landscape architecture to engage with the inscriptions of race, gender, and class on the profession, practice, and pedagogy of the field.

PHOEBE LICKWAR

'Future Forests: The Pineta of Villa Doria Pamphilj'

Abstract

The Pineta in Villa Doria Pamphilj is an architectural landscape of great beauty and historical significance, beloved by neighborhood residents and celebrated by visitors to Rome. As the pine tortoise scale continues to weaken the pines in the grove, and as dying trees are removed one by one, what future forest should emerge in its place? Is it possible to respond without erasing the history of the grove? The vulnerability of monoculture to insect pests and ongoing intensification of climate-related stressors on urban trees demand new approaches to rehabilitation that are sensitive while also fostering resilience. This talk will explore how agroecology can serve as a powerful framework for adaptive forest formations, with examples drawn from case studies across Italy.

Bio

Phoebe Lickwar is an artist and landscape architect based in Austin, Texas. She is founding Principal of FORGE Landscape Architecture and associate professor at the University of Texas at Austin. Key themes in Lickwar's work include the design of a climate resilient urban agroecology, the preservation of agrarian heritage landscapes, and the restoration of land degraded by commodity agriculture. She is coauthor of the book *Farmscape: The Design of Productive Landscapes* and recipient of the 2022 Garden Club of America Rome Prize at the American Academy in Rome. Lickwar holds degrees in landscape architecture, visual and environmental studies, and education from Harvard University and the Rhode Island School of Design.

I NOSTRI PINI DI ROMA: A WORKSHOP

November 16, 2023

AR
A

PRESENTATIONS

LARA PUCCI

'Pietra e alberi di lunga vita: Pine Trees in Fascism's Transformation of the Roman Landscape'

Abstract

This paper explores the function of pine trees in Fascism's extensive interventions in Rome's built environment. It considers the ways in which pines were used to animate architectural spaces, to mediate between urban and rural settings, to root new architectural schemes within the landscape, and to evoke the historical views of Rome that served Fascism's rhetoric of regeneration after the model of the ancient past. Alongside the physical spaces of the Fascist city, this paper looks at their pictorial representation in tourist literature and illustrated magazines to examine how pine trees were invoked in the discursive spaces of Fascist Rome.

Bio

Lara Pucci is Assistant Professor in Art History at the University of Nottingham. Her research focuses on art and visual culture in twentieth-century Italy, especially during the Fascist era and the immediate post-war period. She has held the Baldson Fellowship (2022) and the Henry Moore Foundation Fellowship in Sculpture (2018) at the British School at Rome. Her work has appeared in *Tate Papers*, the *Oxford Art Journal*, *Italian Studies*, *Annali d'Italianistica*, and *The Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes*. She is currently writing a book on *Fascist Conceptions of the Italian Landscape* with the support of a research fellowship from the Leverhulme Trust.

PETER BENSON MILLER

'Pining For Rome: American Artists and the Eternal City'

Abstract

The Italian stone pine (*pinus pinea*) appears in paintings by American artists working in Rome in the postwar period, many of them associated with the American Academy. Their fascination with the pine owes a great deal to their nineteenth-century precursors. After the war, however, the pine emerged as a more ambivalent screen for abstraction colored by existential malaise. Attentive to idiosyncratic variations on the theme, this talk tracks the manifestations of the pine over the course of little more than a century, from picturesque accessory to contemporary cipher.

Bio

Art historian and curator, Peter Benson Miller served as Andrew Heiskell Arts Director at the American Academy in Rome from 2013 to 2019. Currently the curator of the Fondazione Nicola Del Roscio in Rome, Miller has curated exhibitions featuring work by Yto Barrada, Philip Guston, Charles Ray, Paul Thek, and Cy Twombly, among other artists. His book-length study of exchanges between American and Italian artists in postwar Rome is forthcoming from Bloomsbury Visual Arts.

GIULIA CANEVA

'The Stone Pine: An Element of Nature Strongly Rooted in Our Culture'

Abstract

This presentation explores the identity of the stone pine, a species of significant importance in the Mediterranean World. Delving into the pine's morphological, structural, anatomical, and evolutionary characteristics, Caneva sheds light on the theme of the tree's biogeographical origins. The paper also emphasizes the pine's ecological preferences and its presence in habitats of notable conservation interest even while facing threats in both natural and urban environments, particularly due to the careless management of public and private green areas. Finally, Caneva will explore the stone pine's historical significance in Roman history and ancient rituals, as well as its influence in art, poetry, traditions, and various aspects of contemporary Italian culture.

I NOSTRI PINI DI ROMA: A WORKSHOP

November 16, 2023



CONVERSATIONS/CONVERSAZIONI

GIULIA CANEVA

Bio

Bio

Professor of Environmental and Applied Botany (BIO/03) at the Department of Sciences of the University of Roma Tre

Giulia Caneva is an internationally renowned scholar of Mediterranean thermophilic vegetation, biodeterioration and conservation of stonework materials, botanical planning in archaeological and monumental areas, various aspects of urban greenery, and the enhancement of material and immaterial cultural assets, including botanical iconography in art and ethnobotany. Caneva is the winner of the Lumbroso Prize (Bes so Foundation, 2011) and the Grand Prix for Cultural Heritage (European Community-EuropaNostra, 2012) for her work, *The Augustus Botanical Code*, and the Art and Science Award (National Society of Sciences, Letters, and Arts, Naples, 2019) for her scientific activities related to the artistic world. She is also the author of over 330 national and international scientific articles and 23 monographic texts.

MIRANDA MOTE

Bio

Miranda Mote is the Garden Club of America/Prince Charitable Trusts Rome Prize Fellow in Landscape Architecture. She is a historian, artist, and educator based in Philadelphia. Mote graduated with a BArch from University of Cincinnati (1995), a MDes in History and Philosophy of Design from Graduate School of Design at Harvard University (2015), and a PhD in the History, and Theory of Architecture at University of Pennsylvania (2021). She has taught at Temple University, Pratt Institute and currently teaches at University of Pennsylvania. As an artist, she has developed nature printing techniques based on her historical research about the poetics of botanical image making. Her work with the Penn Program in Environmental Humanities in 2021 supported her interest in addressing environmental injustice in Philadelphia and the establishment of Botanography. Botanography is a non-profit that directly serves students in urban schools of Philadelphia with arts-focused literacy and botany programming. While in residence at the American Academy in Rome, she will be focused on the history of nature-printing in Italy, making a series of botanical prints about the trees and plants of the Janiculum, and working with children of the Academy and local schools teaching botanical arts.

ALESSANDRA VINCIGUERRA

Bio

Alessandra Vinciguerra, horticulturist, has been Bass Superintendent of Gardens at the American Academy in Rome since 1992. She is responsible for the restoration, horticultural management, and ongoing maintenance of the Academy's gardens on the Janiculum Hill. She is president of the William Walton Foundation and director of La Mortella Gardens, in Ischia, considered one of the most beautiful gardens of Italy, where she is in charge of landscape and horticulture, and oversees the musical and cultural programs. She is Trustee of the William Walton Trust in England. She has been a consultant for the restoration of the gardens of Villa Taverna, residence of the US Ambassador in Rome, and Landriana, a Russell Page-designed garden south of Rome. Vinciguerra, who also has a degree in medieval history, started her career at Ninfa Gardens; in the early 2000s she appeared as garden expert in television programs on national Italian TV (Rai) such as *Geo & Geo* and *Uno mattina*. From 2001 to 2018 she was project manager and organizer of the Spring and Autumn Garden Festival at Landriana Gardens. She often lectures about gardens in Italy and abroad. She curated for the Academy the exhibition and book: *Russell Page - Portraits of Italian Gardens* (Electa, 1998) and has contributed to the volumes *The gardens of diplomacy, Foreign embassies and academies in Rome* (Electa, 2003) and *Italian villas and gardens* (Istituto Poligrafico dello Stato, 2004).