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**AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME AWARDS
PRESTIGIOUS MCKIM MEDAL TO
BERNARDO BERTOLUCCI**



Bernardo Bertolucci ©Brigitte Lacombe 2012

Rome - The American Academy in Rome has announced that Maestro **Bernardo Bertolucci** is the 2013 McKim Medal Laureate. The award celebrates the internationally renowned director for exceptional contributions to cinema throughout his career. Bertolucci will be honored with the McKim Medal in Rome on **Monday 27 May 2013, which will be presented to him at the 9th annual McKim Medal Gala at Villa Aurelia.**

Adele Chatfield-Taylor, President and CEO of the American Academy in Rome, stated: "On behalf of the American Academy in Rome, we are delighted to be presenting the 2013 McKim Medal to Maestro Bernardo Bertolucci, one of the most influential film directors of our day. His work has captivated audiences around the world since his earliest efforts. He has challenged the film industry and his viewers by exploring the complex themes that lie at the core of the human condition. We are deeply grateful to our Italian and American donors who underwrite the McKim gala every year; the proceeds make possible fellowships for Italian artists and scholars at the American Academy in Rome!"

Bernardo Bertolucci began his cinematic career in 1961, becoming first assistant director to Pier Paolo Pasolini in *Accattone*. His directorial debut, *The Grim Reaper*, was based on a story by Pasolini. In 1964 he filmed *Before the Revolution*, an intimate work that explores existential and political ambiguity, prevalent themes in Bertolucci's films of the '70s. He gained enormous success (and notoriety) with *Last Tango in Paris* and the historic epic *Novecento*, followed by *The Last Emperor*, which received nine Oscars. In the '90s Bertolucci returned to Italy to shoot *Stealing Beauty* and *The Siege*. In 2003 he filmed *The Dreamers*, a nostalgic return to the Paris of 1968. The year 2012 marked the release of his most recent film, *Me and You*. Bertolucci has received many prestigious awards including: the Golden Lion at the 75th Venice Film Festival in 2007, the Honorary Palme d'Or at Cannes in 2011, and the EFA Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012.

AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME

The Trustees of the American Academy in Rome established the McKim Medal to honor exceptional individuals whose work has had a global impact on the arts and humanities. Previous McKim Medal laureates include **Renzo Piano, Cy Twombly, Umberto Eco, Franco Zeffirelli, Ennio Morricone, Miuccia Prada, Luigi Ontani and Riccardo Muti.**

The actress **Tea Falco** will present Maestro Bertolucci with the McKim Medal. This year's McKim Gala is chaired by **Valentina Moncada di Paternò**, together with Founding Chair and Academy Trustee, **Verdella Caracciolo de Benedictis**. The McKim Medal Gala makes possible fellowships that provide both Italian and American winners with important opportunities to pursue their individual studies and engage in the international dialogue of scholarship and the arts. Funds raised by the Gala allow Italian artists and scholars to join the Academy community each year. These opportunities have proven to be an enrichment both to the individual Fellows and to the larger international community. The McKim Medal Gala kicks off a week of special activities at the American Academy in Rome that include the Fellows Opens Studios, Readings, and Concerts.

The McKim Medal

The McKim Medal was established by the Trustees of the American Academy in Rome in 2005 as an annual prize that honors an individual whose work internationally – most particularly in Italy and the United States – has contributed significantly to the arts and humanities. Named for Charles Follen McKim (1847-1909), noted architect who established the Academy in 1894, the McKim medal was designed by **Cy Twombly**. This year's medal has been crafted and donated by Roman jeweler **Fabio Salini**. The wine for the evening is generously donated by **Andrea Franchetti**, producer of Passopisciaro in Sicily and Tenuta di Trinoro in Tuscany.

The American Academy in Rome

A leading overseas center for independent study and advanced research in the arts and humanities, the American Academy in Rome has for over 119 years offered support, time, and a collaborative environment to some of America's most gifted artists and scholars. Through a national juried competition, the Academy offers up to 30 Rome Prize fellowships in architecture, design, historic preservation and conservation, landscape architecture, literature, musical composition, and the visual arts; as well as in ancient studies, medieval studies, Renaissance and early-modern studies, and modern Italian studies. The Academy also appoints Italian Fellows in the arts and humanities. They live in a dynamic interdisciplinary community at the institution's 100-year old site atop the Janiculum, joined by a small group of Residents, distinguished artists and scholars invited by the Director. Chartered as a private entity by an act of Congress in 1905, the Academy is supported by gifts from individuals, foundations, corporations, and competitive grants from the National Endowments for the Arts and Humanities. Of the 30 foreign academies in Rome, only the American Academy relies on private rather than government support.

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