

AAR ANNOUNCES HELEN FRANKENTHALER FOUNDATION AS TWO-YEAR SEASON SPONSOR OF CONVERSATIONS | CONVERSAZIONI SERIES

*Includes support of cross-disciplinary arts and humanities programs
featuring Colm Tóibín, Ping Chong, Michael Rock, Amy Sillman, Daniel Mendelsohn,
David Lang, Kimberly Bowes, Michael Bierut, and others*

NEW YORK and ROME (September 8, 2016) –The American Academy in Rome (AAR) announced that the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation has made a major grant of \$200,000 to support the next two years of **Conversations/Conversazioni: From the American Academy in Rome**. The Foundation will serve as Season Sponsor of the ongoing program series, which highlights the current work of AAR Fellows and Residents in the arts and humanities, in the form of lectures, presentations, and performances.

“This generous gift from the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation will help support a broader discussion of the arts and humanities in the United States and globally,” said **Mark Robbins**, president of the American Academy in Rome. “This program series also reinforces the link between disciplines and the way artists and scholars work today. We are grateful to the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation for supporting AAR’s historic role in shaping scholarship and creativity in contemporary society.”

For the 2016-2017 season, AAR has developed programming around the theme of **American Classics**, reconsidering the classic ideas, texts, songs, and images that define what it means to be “American.” Drawing inspiration from the Academy’s location in Rome, the theme aims to understand modern-day American culture by investigating the relationship between American ideals and the ancient world, the nature of 21st-century individualism, and the images and architecture of the empire, among other areas of discussion. Participants for the 3rd season include leading voices in the arts and humanities:

- Artists Ping Chong and Amy Sillman
- Scholars Daniel Mendelsohn, Colm Tóibín, Kimberly Bowes, and Ian Hodder
- Designers Michael Rock and Michael Bierut
- Composers David Lang and Andrew Norman
- Architects Richard Gluckman and Mark Lee/Sharon Johnston

Full details on the fall/winter events can be seen on the attached PDF and at <http://aarome.org/events/series>.

Clifford Ross, chairman of the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation, and **Elizabeth Smith**, executive director, said, “The American Academy in Rome has a rich history of providing contemporary artists and scholars with time and space to pursue their individual and collective projects. Helen Frankenthaler had a deep and lifelong love of discussion, discourse, and learning, and this gift reflects the Foundation’s interest in supporting projects that perpetuate the spirit of her life and work. We look forward to the cross-disciplinary exchange of ideas that will emerge from these upcoming programs.”

Launched in 2014, previous seasons of Conversations/Conversazioni have featured a wide spectrum of renowned artists and scholars, including:

- **Visual Arts:** Carrie Mae Weems, Sarah Oppenheimer, Lyle Ashton Harris, Rob Storr, Isaac Julien, Sally Mann, Catherine Wagner, and Martino Gamper
- **Literature:** Francine Prose, Ed Hirsch, and Robert Polito

- **Scholars:** David Kertzer, C. Brian Rose, James Cuno, Deborah Lehr, Anthony Grafton, André Aciman, Vernon Hyde Minor, David Stone, and Avinoam Shalem
- **Landscape Architecture:** Mary Margaret Jones, and Walter Hood
- **Architecture:** Craig Dyker, Elaine Molinar, and Jeanne Gang
- **Musical composition:** David Lang and Nico Muhly

AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME / THE ROME PRIZE

Founded in 1894, the American Academy in Rome is a leading international center for independent study and advanced research in the arts and humanities. A not-for-profit, privately funded institution, AAR annually offers the Rome Prize Fellowship and Italian Fellowships to a select group of artists and scholars, after an application process that begins each fall. The winners, selected by independent juries through a national competition process, are invited to Rome the following year to pursue their work in an atmosphere conducive to intellectual and artistic experimentation and interdisciplinary exchange. Fellowships are offered in the following categories: Literature, Music Composition, Visual Arts, Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Design, and Historic Preservation and Conservation, as well as Ancient, Medieval, Renaissance and Early Modern, and Modern Italian Studies.

In addition to the Rome Prize winners and Italian Fellows, the Academy also invites a select group of residents, affiliated fellows, and visiting artists and scholars to work together within this exceptional community in Rome.

To learn more about the Rome Prize, Italian Fellowship or programs at the American Academy in Rome, please visit: www.aarome.org.

HELEN FRANKENTHALER AND THE HELEN FRANKENTHALER FOUNDATION

Helen Frankenthaler (1928-2011), whose career spanned six decades, has long been recognized as one of the great American artists of the twentieth century. An heir of first-generation Abstract Expressionism, she brought together in her work a conception of the canvas as both a formalized field and an arena for gestural drawing. She was eminent among the second generation of postwar American abstract painters and is widely credited for playing a pivotal role in the transition from Abstract Expressionism to Color Field painting. One of the foremost colorists of our time, she produced a body of work whose impact on contemporary art has been profound and continued working productively through the opening years of this century. Her work is represented in museum collections worldwide and has been the subject of numerous national and international exhibitions and substantial publications.

The New York City-based Helen Frankenthaler Foundation, established and endowed by the artist during her lifetime, is dedicated to promoting greater public interest in and understanding of the visual arts. For more information, visit: <http://www.frankenthalerfoundation.org>.

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CONVERSATIONS

FROM THE AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME

ROME

ALL ISLANDS CONNECT UNDERWATER

PING CHONG

Artist (2017 Resident)

HOU HANRU

Artistic Director, MAXXI Museum

Tuesday, 27 September 2016, 6:30pm

American Academy in Rome (Villa Aurelia)
Porta di San Pancrazio, 1

NEW YORK CITY

BRANDING: DESIGNING AMERICA

MICHAEL ROCK

Founding Partner, 2 × 4; AAR Trustee (2000 Fellow)

MICHAEL BIERUT

Partner, Pentagram (2016 Resident)

Wednesday, 5 October 2016, 6:30pm

Museum of Arts and Design
2 Columbus Circle

ROME

PATRICIA H. LABALME FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY
LECTURE: ON HENRY JAMES

COLM TÓIBÍN

Novelist/Critic

SARA ANTONELLI

Professor of American Literature, Roma Tre University

Tuesday, 18 October 2016, 6:00pm

American Academy in Rome (Villa Aurelia)
Porta di San Pancrazio, 1

NEW YORK CITY

SEX AND THE CITY: ANCIENT AND MODERN

DANIEL MENDELSON

Author/Critic; Charles Ranlett Flint Professor
of Humanities, Bard College (2017 Resident,
2010 Affiliated Fellow)

KIMBERLY BOWES

AAR Director; Associate Professor, Department
of Classical Studies, University of Pennsylvania
(2006 Fellow)

Wednesday, 9 November 2016, 6:30pm

Museum of Arts and Design
2 Columbus Circle

HOUSTON

AMY SILLMAN

Artist (2015 Resident)

DAVID BRESLIN

John R. Eckel, Jr. Foundation Chief Curator,
Menil Drawing Institute

Friday, 13 January 2017, 6:30pm

The Menil Collection
1533 Sul Ross St

In Collaboration with The Menil Collection

Please note for Rome events

Valid photo ID is required for entry into the American Academy in Rome. Backpacks and luggage with dimensions larger than 40 × 35 × 15 cm (16 × 14 × 6 inches) are not permitted on the property. There are no locker facilities available.

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2016–2017 SEASON SPONSOR

HELEN FRANKENTHALER FOUNDATION