



From left: Mark Robbins, Paola Antonelli, Luca Guadagnino, Richard LaGravenese, Maria Teresa Venturini Fendi, and AAR director John Ochsendorf (by Gerardo Gaetaeni)

AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME HONORS PAOLA ANTONELLI AND LUCA GUADAGNINO AT MCKIM MEDAL GALA

Annual benefit supports Italian Artists and Scholars

ROME AND NEW YORK (June 6, 2019) - The American Academy honored curator **Paola Antonelli** and director **Luca Guadagnino** at the McKim Medal Gala last night in Rome at the Villa Aurelia. **Marva Griffin Wilshire**, founder and curator of SaloneSatellite, presented the McKim medal to Ms. Antonelli, while Mr. Guadagnino's medal was presented by screenwriter and director **Richard LaGravenese**. The evening included a special tribute by the actor and filmmaker **Louis Garrel**.

One of the highest-profile cultural events of the spring season in Rome, the annual benefit honors individuals whose work internationally, most particularly in Italy and in the United States, has contributed significantly to the arts and humanities, while raising funds to support artists and scholars at the Academy, including its Italian Fellows.

Ms. Antonelli is the Senior Curator in the Department of Architecture & Design and founding Director of Research & Development at The Museum of Modern Art (New York City). She has curated numerous shows at MoMA and other international institutions. In 2007, she was named one of the 25 most incisive design visionaries by *Time* magazine. Her most recent project, the XXII Triennale di Milano, entitled *Broken Nature: Design Takes on Human Survival*, opened in March 2019. Mr. Guadagnino is a screenwriter, director and producer based in Milan. His award-winning films include *The Protagonists* (1999), *I Am Love* (2009), *Inconscio italiano* (2011), *A Bigger Splash* (2015), and *Call Me by Your Name* (2017), for which he received nominations for the Academy Award for Best Picture, Nastro d'Argento for Best Director, and BAFTA Award for Best Direction.

"The Academy is delighted to recognize Paola Antonelli and Luca Guadagnino for the indelible impact they have had on how we see and understand the world around us," said **Mark Robbins, AAR**

President. “We are immensely grateful to the Roman and Italian community, as well as Gala Patrons **Moncler SpA** and **John FW Rogers**, for their continued support of the Academy.”

The 2019 McKim Gala was chaired by **Maria Teresa Venturini Fendi**, who is president of the Carla Fendi Foundation. Said Ms. Fendi: “As an Italian with strong ties to the United States, I was honored and pleased to be asked by the American Academy in Rome to host the McKim Medal Gala. It was a privilege to celebrate the work and careers of Italian artists Paola Antonelli and Luca Guadagnino.” An international audience from the world of the arts and humanities, including design, literature, visual art, music, fashion and business converged on Villa Aurelia for cocktails before dinner. Honorary Dinner Chairs of the evening were **Mrs. Lewis M. Eisenberg** and **Ginevra Elkann Gaetani**, together with the Founding Dinner Chair **Verdella Caracciolo de Benedictis**.

In addition to Moncler SpA and John FW Rogers, sponsors of the 2019 McKim Gala included: Fondazione Carla Fendi, Tommy Hilfiger, Bloomberg, Bulgari SpA, Citi, Credit Suisse, Dior, Fendi, Gagosian, Generali, Gianni, Origoni, Grippo, Cappelli & Partners, Giorgio Armani, Gucci, Maire Tecnimont SpA, Maison Valentino, and Open Capital Partners.

The McKim Medal is an annual prize that honors individuals whose work internationally, most particularly in Italy and in the United States, has contributed significantly to the arts and humanities and exemplifies creative and intellectual exchange. The Medal is named for Charles Follen McKim (1847–1909), noted architect who founded the Academy. Proceeds from the evening support Academy programs and fellowships at the Academy for Italian artists and scholars, providing them with important opportunities to pursue their individual studies, to participate in and contribute to international discourse in their fields and disciplines, and to gain experience that will be invaluable throughout their careers.

The McKim Medal was designed for the Academy by **Cy Twombly** and handcrafted by **Delfina Delettrez**.

Previous winners of the McKim Medal include Renzo Piano, Cy Twombly, Umberto Eco, Franco Zeffirelli, Ennio Morricone, Miuccia Prada, Luigi Ontani, Riccardo Muti, Bernardo Bertolucci, Zaha Hadid, Carlo Petrini, Paolo Sorrentino, Patrizia Cavalli, Giorgio Moroder, Dante Ferretti & Francesca Lo Schiavo, Giuseppe Penone, Roberto Benigni and Sir Antoni Pappano.

In addition to our Corporate Patrons and Sponsors, the Academy is pleased to acknowledge in-kind support for the McKim Gala provided by **Slamp Lighting Design** and **Paolo e Noemia d’Amico Wines**.

American Academy in Rome Celebrates 125 Years

Founded in 1894, the American Academy in Rome is the oldest American overseas center for independent study and advanced research in the arts and humanities. It is the only privately funded not-for-profit institution among the national academies in Rome. In addition to the Rome Prize and

Italian Fellowships, the Academy invites a select group of Residents, Affiliated Fellows, and Visiting Artists and Scholars to work together within this exceptional community. In celebration of its 125th anniversary this October, the Academy will invite leading artists and thinkers to investigate the impact of the exposure to the city of Rome, in a year-long series of public programs investigating how encounters with Rome resonate throughout the arts and the humanities in the United States and Italy.

2019–20 Rome Prize Winners and Italian Fellows

Last month the Academy announced winners of the 2019–20 Rome Prize and Italian Fellowships. These highly competitive fellowships support advanced independent work and research in the arts and humanities. This year, Fellowships were awarded to thirty American and six Italian artists and scholars, who will each receive a stipend, workspace, and room and board for a period of five to eleven months at the Academy's eleven-acre campus in Rome. The full list of winners can be found at https://www.aarome.org/sites/default/files/pr_en/2019-20-rome-prize-winners-english.pdf.

All Fellows are selected annually by independent juries of distinguished artists and scholars through a national competition. The eleven disciplines supported by the Academy are: literature, music composition, visual arts, architecture, landscape architecture, design, and historic preservation and conservation, as well as ancient studies, medieval studies, Renaissance and early modern studies, and modern Italian studies.

To learn more about the American Academy in Rome, please visit aarome.org.

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For more information on how to participate in the Gala and how to support the Italian Fellowships program, please contact Inga Clausing: +39 06 584 6474, i.clausing@aarome.org.