

William Kentridge and Peter Sellars Will be Honored by the American Academy in Rome

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The South African artist William Kentridge and American theater director Peter Sellars will be honored during the American Academy in Rome's upcoming gala dinner in New York on Wednesday. Next month the Academy will bestow its McKim Medal on Italian conductor Riccardo Muti during a ceremony at the Academy's Villa

Aurelia on May 28.

Money raised from the two gala events will go to help fund the Academy's activities, most notably its 118-year-old residency program. At the New York event Kentridge (who was a resident at the Academy last year) and Sellars will be introduced by novelist Toni Morrison and Brazilian opera star Paulo Szot. Following the ceremony the 30 winners of the 2012-13 Rome Prize will be announced.

In Rome, Muti — who is the current music director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra — will join previous McKim Medal recipients like the philosopher Umberto Eco, composer Ennio Morricone, architect Renzo Piano, and the late artist Cy Twombly. The ceremony will launch a week-long program of events at the Academy, including concerts and open studios.

— Benjamin Sutton