

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **MARK ROBBINS, FAAR'97, NAMED NEW PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME**



Mark Robbins

NEW YORK, October 30, 2013—The American Academy in Rome today announced that artist, curator and educator Mark Robbins, FAAR'97, has been appointed President and CEO of the American Academy in Rome, effective January 2014, to succeed President and CEO Adele Chatfield-Taylor, FAAR'84, who is stepping down after 25 years of service.

In announcing the Search Committee's decision, Academy Chair Mary Margaret Jones, FAAR'98, commented: "I am enormously pleased that one of our own, Mark Robbins, will be the next President. He brings his record as an exceptional leader, administrator, educator, architect and artist to a position that must represent all that is the Academy and its legacy as the highest possible representation of excellence in scholarship and the arts. We believe Mark is the perfect person to lead us into the next era for the Academy, one that strengthens its international and national reach and maintains the dynamic community that has had such an impact on notable artists and scholars throughout the institution's illustrious history."

Presently Executive Director of the International Center of Photography, Robbins was the first Curator of Architecture at the Wexner Center for the Arts in Columbus, Ohio, Director of Design at the National Endowment for the Arts in Washington, DC, and Dean of the School of Architecture and Senior Advisor on Architecture and Urban Initiatives at Syracuse University in Syracuse, New York. He has had extensive teaching experience, and his work as an artist is wide-ranging, involving architecture, photography, site-specific and installation projects. He received his B.A. from Colgate University and a Masters in Architecture from Syracuse University.

Regarding his appointment, Mr. Robbins said, "The Academy is an international site of scholarship and creativity. I am honored to lead the institution within an increasingly global, technological arena, building

on the robust foundation secured through Adele's inspired work. Rome seems endless in depth, offering vastly different fields of interpretation. The Academy must continue to attract the strongest, most diverse candidates across disciplines whose work makes the lessons of Rome a vibrant part of modern intellectual and creative life.”

Mr. Robbins was chosen from a large field of outstanding candidates. The Trustee Search Committee was co-chaired by Ms. Jones and William B. Hart, Chairman Emeritus; they were assisted by Isaacson, Miller.

## **The American Academy in Rome**

Founded in 1894, originally as the first graduate school of architecture for the United States, the American Academy in Rome emerged in its present form – a hybrid center for the arts and humanities – by 1912. It remains the premier American overseas center for independent study and advanced research, a not-for-profit, private entity, the only one of the 30 foreign academies in Rome not supported primarily or entirely by its government. With an 11-acre campus on the highest point within the walls of Rome, the Academy annually offers the Rome Prize to approximately 30 individuals, following a national competition presided over by rotating independent juries of peers in each discipline, which include ancient, medieval, Renaissance and early modern, and modern Italian studies, and literature, music composition, visual arts, architecture, landscape architecture, design, and historic preservation and conservation.

The annual application deadline is 1 November. The Academy community also includes a carefully selected group of Residents, distinguished artists and scholars invited by the Director, Affiliated Fellows, and Visiting Artists and Scholars. For more information please visit: [www.aarome.org](http://www.aarome.org)

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