

AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME GALA 2023

NOVEMBER 10, 2023



Guests at the American Academy in Rome's annual gala.

PARTY PICTURES • BY: SHARON HOGE

All roads led to the American Academy in Rome annual gala with guests entering the Altman Building through a series of “gates” with banners depicting locations in the city’s St. Peter’s Basilica. Over 300 artists, writers, scholars, supporters

assembled to honor awardees **Agnes Gund**, **Sir Isaac Julian**, and **Mark Robbins**. An original performance by groundbreaking artist **Laurie Anderson** preceded an after-dinner dessert buffet and dancing at the event which raised over a million dollars.

Waiters offered beverages, featuring Italian Negroni cocktails, as attendees mingled upstairs and downstairs, sampling artfully crafted chanterelles crustada, golden beet brulee and other nibbles created by caterer Bite.



Guests entered through gates adorned with Roman scenes.



Sally Benner and Michelle Hobart.



Michael Stubbs, Jon Stryker, Gala Chairman Slobodan Randjelović, Jordan Eagles, and Biljana Simic.



A group of 2023 Rome Prize Fellows.



AAR President Peter N. Miller and Adam Weinberg.



Andrea Lazzari, Shai Baitel, Andrew Fierberg, Honoree Sir Isaac Julien, Catriona Mordant, and Simon Mordant.



Playwright John Guare and AAR Past President Adele Chatfield Taylor.



Craig Starr, Sydie Lansing, and Sarah Lewis.



L. to r.: Marilyn Davis and John Carr; Sharon Davis and Jonathan Marvel.



Hank Thomas, Deborah Willis, Sarah Lewis, and Hank Willis Thomas.



Adam Yarinsky, Mark Robbins, and Amy Weisser.



Anne Phelps, Katy Falco, Cary Davis, Ryan Hardy, Simone Falco, and Agatha Capacchione.



Architect Jeanne Gang and businessman Vincent Buonanno.



Claire Zeppieri, Kim Cullen, and Biljana Simic.



Simon Mordant, Amanda Love, Andrew Fierberg, and Catriona Mordant.



Sharon Davis, Susan Morgenthau, and David Ballantine.



Courtney J. Martin and Board Chairman Calvin Tsao.



Merrill Elam.



Mel Chin, Honoree Agnes Gund, and AAR Resident Catherine Gund.



Suzanne Bocanegra, David Lang, Julia Wolfe, and Michael Gordon.



Laurie Anderson, Jennifer Lee, and Louise Neri.

Proceeding to the banquet room, guests were seated at long tables already plated for the first course forest mushroom polenta, wild porcini risotto, and autumn orecchiette which launched the all vegetarian menu, in keeping with the Academy's commitment to local and sustainably sourced food, as embodied by their Rome Sustainable Food Project, founded by **Alice Waters**. Guests dined on a six-item main course that included braised white beans, crispy garnet yams, roasted Romanesco.



Dinner was served at long tables.



Gala Chairman Slobodan Randjelovic Gala Chair greets guests.



Sally Benner, Theodore Rogers, and Thayer Tolles.



Louis Bofferding and Kathy Rayner.



AAR Past President Adele Chatfield Taylor and Board Chairman Calvin Tsao.



A plated first course introduced the vegetarian meal.

Organized in 1894, and America's oldest overseas center for advanced scholarship and independent study, the Academy awards the prestigious Rome Prize and invites Prize winners and other fellows, residents, and visiting scholars to live and interact on the Janiculum Hill campus while pursuing projects and research in the arts and humanities. Distinguished past residents include 72 Pulitzer Prize winners and five Nobel Laureates; dozens of illustrious AAR alumni were present at the gala.

Three Honorees were saluted for advancing the arts and humanities and exemplifying outstanding commitment to scholarship and creativity. Harvard professor **Sarah Lewis** introduced filmmaker and installation artist **Sir Isaac Julien** whose multidisciplinary work creates powerful barrier-breaking narratives. MoMA President Emerita and Trustee Emerita of the AAR **Agnes Gund** was presented by Ford Foundation President **Darren Walker** as “the most important patron of the arts living today.” **Mark Robbins**, President and CEO of the AAR for the past nine years, received his medal from artist **Ann Hamilton**, a 2017 Resident of the Academy.



Greetings from AAR President and CEO Peter N. Miller.



Harvard professor Sarah Lewis introduced Sir Isaac Julien.



Sir Isaac Julien.



Ford Foundation President Darren Walker introduced Agnes Gund.



Philanthropist, collector, arts patron, civic leader Honoree Agnes Gund.



Darren Walker, Slobodan Randjelovic, and Agnes Gund.



AAR Past President and CEO Mark Robbins.

Closing the program multidisciplinary artist **Laurie Anderson**, a 2006 Academy Resident, presented a multimedia performance created especially for the occasion. It concluded with the audience waving their hands to participate in “cloud wands” and “hands strum the lute.”



Laurie Anderson performed an original piece.



Laurie Anderson accompanied her words on musical instruments.



The crowd joins in.

Patrons will assemble next spring for the overseas gala held in Rome among the inspiring architectural and sculptural monuments of the Eternal City. *Molto bene.*

Photographs by Michael Ostuni/Patrick McMullan Company, Christine Butler, & Sharon King Hoge



PARTY PICTURES

Nov 10

City Harvest held its signature tasting event, "BID 2023: Drive-In," while the Teens for Food Justice (TFFJ) hosted their 2023 Gala; each with one goal in mind: to end food insecurity. [Read More...](#)



PALM BEACH

Nov 10

The final chapter of Augustus Mayhew's fascinating tale of the Phipps family's architectural history in Palm Beach. [Read More...](#)



SOCIAL DIARY

Nov 14

A book party for John Demsey's "Behind the Blue Door" at his house and benefiting God's Love We Deliver and bringing out bold-faced names by the dozens for a good time, a good book, and a good God's Love. [Read More...](#)



SOCIAL DIARY

Nov 9

Anne Morgan was on my mind when the American Friends of the Franco-American Museum, Chateau de Blérancourt, recently held their annual gala recognizing two American leaders with the Anne Morgan Women of Courage Award — Ambassador Melanne Verveer and General Rose Keravuori. [Read More...](#)



SOCIAL DIARY

Nov 13

A Friday brunch lunch meeting with JH at Eli Zabar's "Essentials" on Madison Ave and 91st Street. [Read More...](#)



PARTY PICTURES

Nov 14

The New York Diwali Gala 2023 celebrated South Asian splendor; The Prostate Cancer Foundation's 27th Annual New York Dinner at Restaurant Daniel. [Read More...](#)