

A NOTE FROM THE FIELD

April 16, 2020



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Dear Friend,

For 125 years the American Academy in Rome has created a special environment for scholars and artists, providing them with space and a community in which to create new work and explore ideas. In response to the global emergency, the Academy made the difficult decision to end the season and close. In the face of new challenges, we reaffirm our mission: to support artists and scholars, living and working as a community in Rome.

Beginning in February, under the leadership of director John Ochsendorf, the Academy took a number of steps to safeguard the health and safety of our community: canceling internal and public events, modifying library and meal services, and finally, asking Fellows to return home early. AAR staff made extraordinary efforts to assist Fellows with travel, housing, and other logistical issues. To support them in this time of displacement, we will continue stipend payments through the Fellowship term, as planned.

Many of you have asked how you can help. The Academy urgently needs funding to address its basic needs: preserving the ability to offer the Rome Prize, and maintaining our buildings and infrastructure. If you are in a position to support us in this way, please consider making a gift today to our [Emergency Fund](#).

We appreciate your involvement in our community. Whether you have spent time at the Academy — as a Fellow, a Resident, a Visiting Artist/Scholar, or friend — watched the [livestream](#) of a Conversation/Conversazioni, attended an exhibition or performance, enjoyed a meal prepared by the RSFP, used the library or archives for research — many of you have regularly contributed to support our work. Thank you for your support now.

The Academy helps ensure the continuity of intellectual and creative output from the many Fellows who have lived and worked in Rome. We are reminded of the importance of community and the impact of ideas, which give us strength in difficult times.

We wish you and your families safe haven and good health in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

Mark Robbins, FAAR’97
President and CEO

DONATE