

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME APPOINTS KIMBERLY BOWES ITS 22nd DIRECTOR



Kimberly Bowes at the American Academy in Rome

ROME and NEW YORK, 27 February 2014 — The American Academy in Rome today announced that archaeologist and educator Kimberly Bowes, FAAR'06, has been named the 22nd Director of the American Academy in Rome. The appointment was announced today by Academy President/CEO Mark Robbins, FAAR'97. She succeeds Professor Christopher S. Celenza, FAAR'94, who will step down after a four-year tenure. Dr. Bowes' appointment begins 1 July 2014.

In announcing the Search Committee's Decision, Academy President Mark Robbins, FAAR '97, commented: "Kim brings a remarkable mix of intellectual rigor and enthusiasm to the Director's position. I'm very much looking forward to working with her in this new capacity. Kim takes the reins from Christopher Celenza, a dynamic leader who leaves the Academy a stronger home for scholarly and artistic enterprise."

Dr. Bowes has been serving since 2012 as the Andrew W. Mellon Professor in Charge of the School of Classical Studies at the Academy, and is Associate Professor of Classical Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. She received her BA (*summa cum laude* 1992) from Williams College, an MA from the Courtauld Institute (1993), and PhD from Princeton (2002). She has been a visiting fellow at Harvard and a postdoctoral fellow/lecturer at Yale, Assistant Professor of Art History at Fordham University, and Assistant Professor of Classical Archaeology at Cornell University.

"The Search Committee was extremely impressed with Kim's insights to the Academy and the influence she has gained during her tenure as Mellon Professor," said Mary Margaret Jones, FAAR'98. "We are thrilled that she will bring her boundless energy and experience to the Directorship."

Dr. Bowes studies the archaeology of the ancient Mediterranean, with specialties in domestic and religious architecture, and the archaeology of Roman poverty. She is currently co-directing a major international project in Tuscany, funded by the National Science Foundation, excavating and analyzing the lives of the Roman poor. Her publications address a wide range of issues pertaining to Roman domestic architecture, religion and economics, and have appeared in journals ranging from the *Journal of Roman Archaeology* to *Art History*. Her first book, *Private Worship, Public Values and Religious Change in Late Antiquity* (Cambridge University Press, 2008), traces the transformation of house-based religion worship from pagan Rome to

AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME

early Christianity. Her most recent volume, *Houses and Society in the Later Roman Empire*, examines the relationship between domestic architecture and social history. She has also published on the Roman history of Spain, the history of Christian architecture, the end of the Roman villa, and the rural landscape. Her most recent work from the Roman Peasant Project has made new breakthroughs in Roman agriculture, demographics and standards of living in the ancient world.

Regarding her appointment as Director, Dr. Bowes states "The American Academy in Rome is without peer as a laboratory for cutting-edge work in the arts and humanities. Now more than ever its alchemical mixture of scholars and artists provides a blueprint for trailblazing intellectual activity. I am hugely honored to be a part of it, and look forward to making its community and activities ever more energetic, diverse and pioneering."

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. To learn more, please visit: www.aarome.org

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