

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

American Academy in Rome Presents *Regeneration*

On View: April 13–June 12, 2022

Featuring Fabio Barile, Chiara Camoni, Sonya Clark, Binh Danh, William Dougherty, Guillermo Kuitca, Annalisa Metta and Luca Catalano, Jorge Otero-Pailos, Robert Gerard Pietrusko, Georges Senga, Julia Solis, and Yeessookyung

Press Kit Available [Here](#)



Jorge Otero-Pailos, *Distributed Monuments*, 2022, latex and dust (artwork © Jorge Otero-Pailos)

ROME AND NEW YORK – From April 13 to June 12, 2022, the American Academy in Rome will present *Regeneration*, bringing together works by contemporary artists from five continents. Rome and its ruins have long provoked an aestheticization of decay—a meditation on the frailty of the physical world and the inevitable passage of time. As an historic crossroads, Rome is also the nexus of cultural dialogues that span the globe from antiquity to the present. *Regeneration* invites us to consider this theme in Rome but also across differing geographic contexts, historical frames, and systems of value.

Regeneration gathers the work of thirteen contemporary artists to consider this paradigm with fresh eyes and push up against a paradox: that decay can seed a new, often beautiful materiality. Not far beyond these aesthetic matters lie ethical ones, concerning permanence and transmutation: how we conceive of and value change, and the struggles in choosing what to keep and what to let go.



Left: Guillermo Kuitca, *Encyclopédie III*, 2010, acrylic and graphite on canvas, Hauser & Worth, Courtesy the artist and Hauser & Worth (artwork © Guillermo Kuitca)

Right: Sonya Clark, *these days. this country. this history.*, 2019, unwoven and rewoven commercially printed flags (US and Confederate), Collection of the artist (artwork © Sonya Clark)

The artists presented in *Regeneration* represent five continents: Africa, Asia, North and South America, and Europe. They work across scales of time that are equally expansive, from the geologic—the pace at which the earth itself is degrading—to the momentary, a tempo we can register with our eyes and ears. The decline they trace is in some cases sociopolitical, in others environmental, and in others a simple fact of nature and materiality. The decomposition and recomposition of materials are universal themes that speaks to natural progressions of time and recovery, while hinting at the larger threats of social and planetary degradation.

Visitors to the exhibition will encounter the American flag coming apart and reimagined (Sonya Clark); the desertified grounds of an African plain strewn with rubble (Georges Senga); a medieval Italian church carved out by a flowing river (Robert Gerard Pietrusko); a fragmentary marble floor exploded and reassembled in graphite (Guillermo Kuitca); and the scarred memories of the Vietnam War in the metaphor of camouflage and chemical transformation (Binh Danh). Yeesookyung fuses together shards of porcelain with fills of gold, while William Dougherty's music resounds through the erosion of its wax cylinder supports. In the work of Jorge Otero-Pailos, Annalisa Metta and Luca Catalano, and Chiara Camoni, dust, rust, and weeds tie universal processes of change back to the city of Rome itself.

The term “regeneration” reminds us that decay inevitably leads to new life. This exhibition examines both process and impact, considering decay as a destructive and a generative phenomenon in diverse cultural contexts.

Regeneration is curated by Lindsay Harris, interim Andrew Heiskell Arts Director, and Elizabeth Rodini, interim Director. It is accompanied by exclusive multimedia content on the Academy’s digital guide on Bloomberg Connects, the free arts and culture app of Bloomberg Philanthropies. A new, specially created [bilingual exhibition website](#) will also highlight the works in the exhibition.

The traumas of war, racism, and their consequences leave traces that can be seen and that remain invisible. Several of the artists in Regeneration have developed creative processes that use the elements of time, meditation, and metamorphosis inherent in art-making to acknowledge these scars and try to heal them in however small a way. In their work, symbols of hatred and intolerance decompose into new forms that hold within them the promise of a fresh start, a changed perspective, or, at the very least, a moment of reprieve to reflect upon the possibilities that lie ahead. —Lindsay Harris

Roman monuments were by definition intended to outlive all else. But other traditions find potential elsewhere, including in the fragment and in materials that are taken back into the earth. The artists included in Regeneration explore these aspects of materiality, alongside the power of absence, silence, the shadow, and the trace. They refuse to place art on a timeline of judgment that sees the whole as the apex of achievement and degradation as decline, preferring to situate creative expression along a continuum of ongoing, elemental reinvention. —Elizabeth Rodini

Regeneration

April 13–June 12, 2022

Open on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, from 4:00 to 7:00pm

AAR Gallery

American Academy in Rome

Via Angelo Masina 5, Rome, Italy 00153

A *Conversation/Conversazioni* with the artists Guillermo Kuitca (2022 Resident) and Sonya Clark (2017 Affiliated Fellow) will be held on Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at 6:00pm CET, in conjunction with the opening of the exhibition. The event, entitled “When Things Fall Apart,” will be moderated by Lindsay Harris, interim Andrew Heiskell Arts Director and cocurator of *Regeneration*.

More information on visiting the show can be found at www.aarome.org.

American Academy in Rome

Established in 1894, the American Academy in Rome (AAR) is America’s oldest overseas center for independent studies and advanced research in the arts and humanities. The Academy has since evolved to become a more global and diverse base for artists and scholars to live and work in Rome. The residential community includes a wide range of scholarly and artistic disciplines, which is representative of the United

States and is fully engaged with Italy and contemporary international exchange. The support provided by the Academy to Rome Prize and Italian Fellows, and invited Residents, helps strengthen the arts and humanities.

To learn more about the American Academy in Rome, please visit aarome.org.

Support

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The [Helen Frankenthaler Foundation](#) generously supports the 2021-22 season of *Conversations/Conversazioni* at the American Academy in Rome.

The residency of Jorge Otero-Pailos is made possible by the Roy Lichtenstein Artist in Residence Fund. The residency of Guillermo Kuitca is made possible possible by the Mary Miss Resident in Visual Art Fund.

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