

PHILIP GUSTON: THE LATE WORK

American Academy in Rome
24-25 May 2010
Villa Aurelia, Largo di Porta San Pancrazio, 1

Organizers: Peter Benson Miller, Curator, *Philip Guston, Roma*
Martin Brody, RAAR'02, Andrew Heiskell Arts Director, American Academy in Rome

In the past decade, several major exhibitions and scholarly publications have revisited many aspects of the distinguished career of American painter Philip Guston, FAAR'49, RAAR'71. Once known as "Abstract Expressionism's Odd-man out," a respected, but often misunderstood, member of the New York School, Guston is now celebrated for the magisterial figurative paintings of the late 1960s and 1970s. Combining painterly virtuosity and narrative power, they cast a long shadow over the current landscape of contemporary art. In light of the profusion of recent scholarship, the time seems right to take stock of the legacy of Guston's late work. Held in conjunction with the exhibition *Philip Guston, Roma* at the Museo Carlo Bilotti – Aranciera di Villa Borghese in Rome, this symposium gathers an international roster of critics and art historians to discuss the significance and critical fortunes of Guston's return to figurative painting, paying special attention to his life-long attentiveness to Italian art and culture.

Monday 24 May

2:30pm Opening Remarks

Carmela Viricillo Franklin, FAAR'85, RAAR'02, Director, American Academy in Rome

Alberta Campitelli, Director, Museo Carlo Bilotti – Aranciera di Villa Borghese

3:00pm Session I

Memoirs and Recollections: A moderated discussion

Chair: Peter Benson Miller, Curator, *Philip Guston, Roma*

Dore Ashton, The Cooper Union, New York

Musa Mayer, Guston Estate, New York

4:00pm Coffee break

4:30pm Session II

Guston and Modernism

Chair: Martin Brody, Andrew Heiskell Arts Director, American Academy in Rome

David Anfam, Phaidon Press, London

Guston's Trauma: Ideal/Abject

Robert Slifkin, Reed College, Oregon

"A Ghost Inhabiting the Art World": Guston's Modernist Follies

David Lewis, City University of New York

Guston and Feldman, or Breakfast at Tiffany's

6:15pm Recital

Morton Feldman, excerpts from *The Viola in My Life (III)*

Palais de Marie

To Philip Guston

7:30pm Reception

Tuesday 25 May

9:30am Session III

Guston and the Italian Context

Chair: Roberto Caracciolo, Arts Liaison, American Academy in Rome

Bill Berkson, poet and critic

Guston, Piero and their Followers

Barbara Drudi, Accademia delle Belle Arti dell'Aquila

Guston a Roma: incontri, relazioni, amicizie e le suggestioni della pittura italiana

Ara H. Merjian, New York University

Guston's Italian Badness

11:00am Coffee break

11:30am Session IV

Guston and Contemporary Painting

Chair: David Anfam, Phaidon Press, London

David Kaufmann, George Mason University, Virginia

'Nothing has begun again': Guston's Melancholy

Christoph Schreier, Kunstmuseum Bonn

Guston and Central Europe. On Germany's Response to Guston's Work

Achille Bonito Oliva, Università degli Studi di Roma "La Sapienza"

Le forme fertili di Philip Guston. Intrecci e influenze tra Europa e America, anni '60 e '80

The conference is made possible by the generous support of the Terra Foundation for American Art. Support is also provided by Barclays GRB Italia, Maria Cox and the New Initiatives for Don Fund, and Nancy O'Boyle.