

**THE AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME
EXPLORES BLACK IDENTITY WITH
“NERO SU BIANCO”**



Lyle Ashton Harris, *Verona #2*, 2001, Black and white silver gelatin print, 16 x 20 inches, Edition of 10

**On view:
MAY 26, 2015 – JULY 19, 2015**

**Media preview:
Monday, May 25, 2015
7:00 – 9:00**

(ROME & NEW YORK CITY) – *Nero su Bianco*, an overview and assessment of black identity and representation, will be on view at the American Academy in Rome from May 26 to July 19, 2015. The show features 25 emerging and established artists, with works occupying the AAR Gallery, other areas of the McKim, Mead & White Building and the Academy gardens. Please see the list of featured artists below.

"The exploration of history in all its facets is central to the work of artists and scholars at the American Academy in Rome," said **Academy President Mark Robbins**, FAAR'97. "The exhibition *Nero su Bianco* -- an international survey of the shifting perceptions of race and identity -- offers a provocative set of narratives that amplify our sense of history."

Nero su Bianco looks at new forms of subjectivity and agency shaped by many factors in the social and political history of the United States and Italy. The exhibition also suggests an examination of the idea of the Academy as a vital forum for the arts and humanities, including a constructive debate about ethnic and cultural hybridity on the global and national stage. As an overview and assessment of the past several decades, the exhibition features work by an international group of artists—many of them closely affiliated with the Academy. Its intent is to take the temperature of discussions related to race today and to examine key historical sites and their continued legacy.

Featured artists include: Terry Adkins (2010 Fellow), Francesco Arena, Bridget Baker, Elisabetta Benassi, Adam Broomberg/Oliver Chanarin, Alessandro Ceresoli, Barbara Chase-Riboud, Onyedika Chuke, Theo Eshetu, Lyle Ashton Harris (2001 Fellow & AAR Trustee), Invernomuto,

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Emily Jacir (2015 Rome Prize), Vincenzo Latronico/Armin Linke, Meleko Mokgosi, Jebila Okongwu, Senam Okudzeto (2015 Rome Prize), Pietro Ruffo, Lorna Simpson, Giuseppe Stampone (2013 Italian Fellow), Justin Randolph Thompson, Nari Ward (2013 Fellow), Carrie Mae Weems (2006 Fellow), Stanley Whitney and Fred Wilson (AAR Trustee).

Several of the artists represented in *Nero su Bianco* will also participate in *Black Portraiture{s} II: Imaging the Black Body and Re-Staging Histories*, a conference organized by New York University in collaboration with Harvard University's Hutchins Center for African and African-American Research, taking place at New York University in Florence—Villa La Pietra on May 28–31, 2015.

Nero su Bianco is curated by Lyle Ashton Harris, Robert Storr and Peter Benson Miller

A fully illustrated catalogue accompanying *Nero su Bianco*, designed by NERO, with texts by Mark Robbins, Robert Storr, Lyle Ashton Harris, Frank Snowden III, Taiye Selasi, Vincenzo Latronico, Christian Caliandro, Claudia Durastanti, and Peter Benson Miller, will be available. The catalogue is made possible by the DEPART Foundation.

The exhibition is made possible by the Syde Hurdus Foundation. Additional support is provided by Miyoung Lee and Neil Simpkins.

Roundtable Discussion: Tuesday, May 26th, 6:00pm (AAR Lecture Room)

Opening: Tuesday, May 26th, 7:00-9:00pm (AAR Gallery, McKim, Mead & White Building and Gardens)

Exhibition: May 26, 2015 – July 19, 2015

Hours: Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 4:00PM – 7:00PM

A series of public events connected to *Nero su Bianco* will occur on Thursdays, beginning June 11th. Please check our website for updates: <http://aarome.org/events/calendar>.

The American Academy in Rome

The American Academy in Rome supports innovative artists, writers, and scholars living and working in a dynamic international community.

Founded in 1894, the Academy emerged in 1914 in its present form as a hybrid center for the arts and humanities. It remains the premier American overseas center for independent study and advanced research. A not-for-profit, privately supported institution, the Academy annually offers the Rome Prize to approximately 30 individuals, following a national competition in which independent juries select candidates across disciplines, which include Literature, Music Composition, Visual Arts, Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Design, and Historic Preservation and Conservation, as well as Ancient, Medieval, Renaissance and Early Modern, and Modern Italian Studies. The annual application deadline for the Rome Prize is 1 November. The Academy community also includes a curated group of Residents, Affiliated Fellows, and Visiting Artists and Scholars. This exceptional group of artists and scholars live and work at the Academy campus located in the Janiculum, one of the highest points in the city of Rome. To learn more about the American Academy in Rome, please visit: www.aarome.org.

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