

ZOE BUCKMAN

ALESSANDRA  
CAPODACQUA

PATRICIA CRONIN

BÄRBEL REINHARD

DEB WILLIS



Regarding  
Women in the  
Acton Collection

ANTONELLA ANEDDA  
ANGIOY

ELISA BIAGINI

CHRISTINE MALVASI

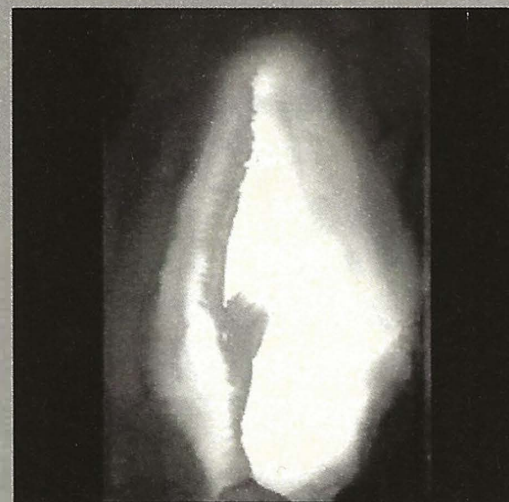
EILEEN MYLES

ALICIA OSTRIKER



June 26 - December 14, 2017

Villa La Pietra  
Via Boiognese, 120  
50139 Firenze





I declare  
That later on  
Even in an age unlike our own  
Someone will remember who we are  
-Sappho

The images of women within the Acton Collection of Villa La Pietra are numerous and richly varied. From a predominance of religious iconography in fine and decorative arts, to mythological and allegorical depictions, portraiture and scenes of domesticity, every room in the collection of some 6000 objects provides documentation through which to explore the symbolic function of gender roles and relationships across centuries. While we can enjoy the Acton Collection on the level of an aesthetic experience, a display of collecting taste, or an archive of historic art, as active viewers we become aware of a crucial tension between the gender constructions these images represented when created and their meaning and resonance in contemporary social and political contexts today.

Using the Acton Collection as both a productive and discursive site, this exhibition examines the depiction of women with a transhistorical perspective, adding into the Villa's collection contemporary responses by artists and poets in an effort to investigate, challenge and expand upon received art historical categories of iconography, patronage, material and function. *Regarding Women in the Acton Collection* is inaugurated as part of The Season, curated and produced by Elyn Toscano. The Season was founded in 2004 by Toscano, the Villa's director, from her vision to set contemporary work in conversation with the Villa's expansive grounds and eclectic art collection. Since 2004, the Season has produced collaboration and exploration between international artists of varying mediums.

Elyn Toscano, Executive Director of New York University Florence, Director of Villa La Pietra

# **PARTICIPATING VISUAL AND LITERARY ARTISTS**

**Antonella Anedda Angioy, literary artist**

**Elisa Biagini, literary artist**

**Zoe Buckman, visual artist** 🟡

**Alessandra Capodacqua, visual artist** 🔵

**Patricia Cronin, visual artist** 🟠

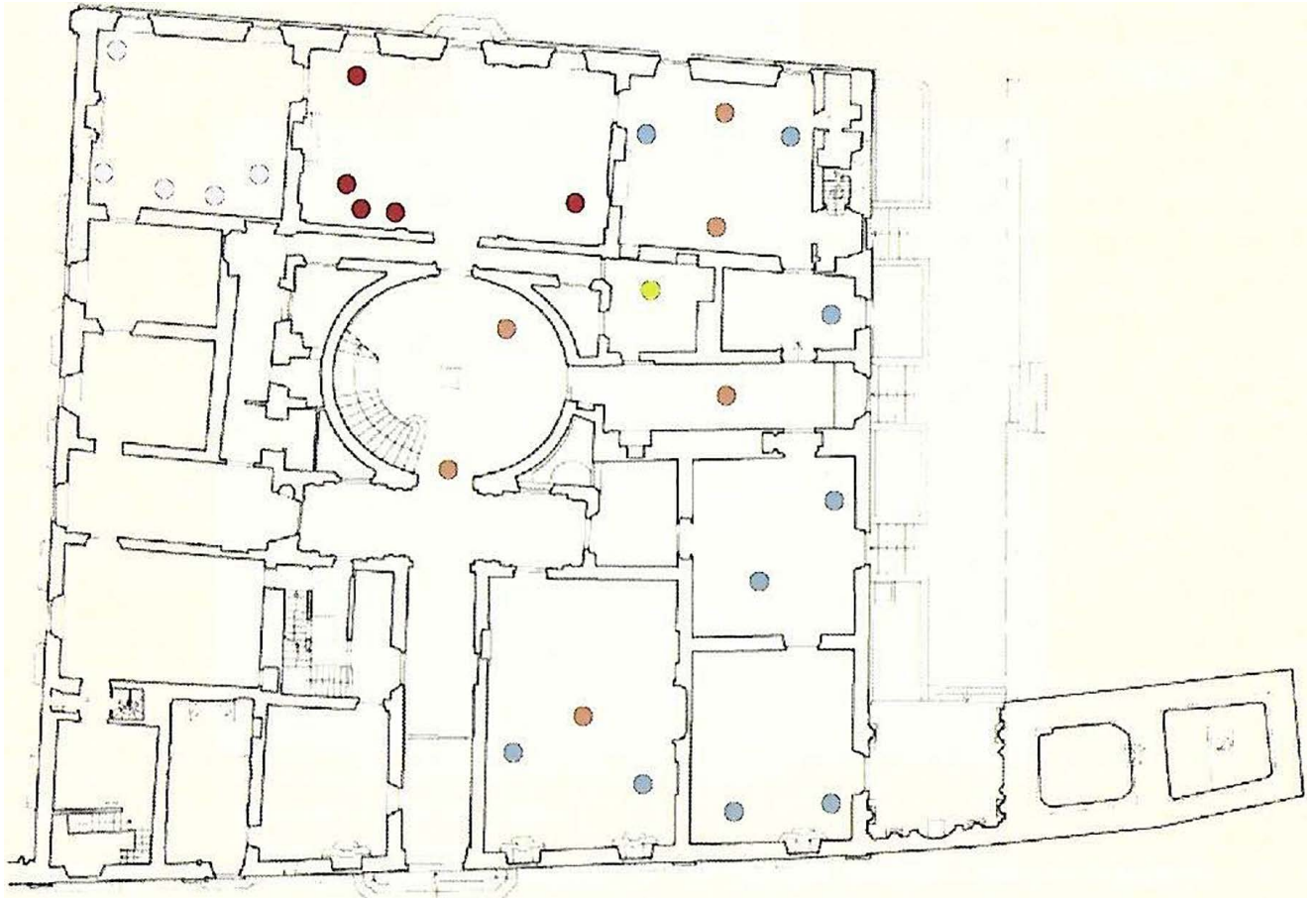
**Christine Malvasi, literary artist**

**Eileen Myles, literary artist**

**Alicia Ostriker, literary artist**

**Bärbel Reinhardt, visual artist** 🟠

**Deb Willis, visual artist** 🔴



## Patricia Cronin

"The large-scale fabric ghosts works installed throughout Villa La Pietra confront the representations of women in the Acton Collection and the prevalent patriarchal "culture of containment" with regards to women. Harriet Hosmer's ghosts represent the hidden and lost histories of women who dared to define their own lives and give presence to their absence."

-Cronin



*Queen of Naples Ghost, 2013*  
dye sublimation on silk

**Patricia Cronin** is a New York-based cross-disciplinary artist and since the early 1990s, her photographs, paintings and sculptures, which examine issues of gender, sexuality and social justice, have been widely exhibited in the U.S. and internationally. *Shrine For Girls, Venice* premiered as a solo Collateral Event of the 56th Venice Biennale then traveled to The FLAG Art Foundation, New York, NY and The LAB, Dublin, Ireland. Other solo exhibitions were presented at the Capitoline Museum's Centrale Montemartini Museum, and the American Academy in Rome Art Gallery, both in Rome, Italy; Newcomb Art Museum, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA; Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY and her monumental sculpture "*Memorial To A Marriage*" is permanently installed in Woodlawn Cemetery, Bronx, NY.