



BIDDERS AND FEATHERS FLOCK TOGETHER AT TWO x TWO FOR AIDS AND ART

BY BROOKE HORTENSTINE
PHOTOGRAPHY BRUNO, LISA STEWART.



"I'm all about versatility," said former co-chairman turned gala guest **Sharon Young**. She was referring to her convertible **Sue Gragg** black feather earrings she'd found at Forty Five Ten, but the same adjective depicts the ever-evolving TWO x TWO for AIDS and Art gala Young was attending that evening. This over-the-top-chic black-tie event hosted at the art home of **Cindy and Howard Rachofsky** — with the purpose of raising record amounts for the Dallas Museum of Art and amFAR, the Foundation for AIDS Research — undergoes a vast transformation year after year, all in an effort to top the previous alchemy of victory. From the decor by event designer **Todd Ficus** (this year he chose layers upon layers of chic and sleek black) to the national galleries and artists wooed to donate works and a guest list that continues to become more weighted with New York and Los Angeles art cognoscenti, versatility is the name of this art-gala game.

Inside the blacked-out dinner tent, host Howard thanked **Alden and Janelle Pinnell** "for the best range of art we've ever had at TWO x TWO": 121-plus pieces of contemporary works on display inside the Richard Meier manse. Hostess Cindy, at his side, was one of the first to announce the DMA's latest acquisition: a new director. "It gives me great pleasure to introduce our brand-new Eugene McDermott director, **Max Anderson**," she said to rousing applause. Along with TWO x TWO director **Melissa Meeks**, the Rachofskys gathered event co-chairs **Joyce Goss**, Tony Award-winning actor **John Benjamin Hickey**, and **Gary Tigges**; honorary chair **Stanley Tucci**; supporter **Kenneth Cole**; performer **Patti LaBelle**

(who sang "Lady Marmalade" and "Somewhere Over the Rainbow"); and Sotheby's auctioneer **Jaime Niven** to entice the crowd to spend fluently and feverishly for the evening. The result? A staggering \$4.8 million raised for the cause. The majority of the bounty came from one auction bid for featured artist **Mark Grotjahn's Untitled (In and Out of the Darkness Face 43.01)**, 2011, an oil on cardboard mounted linen painting. It was valued at \$650,000; the crowd of 500 roared, then leapt to a standing ovation when the piece sold for \$1 million — a TWO x TWO record. The artist himself, however, celebrated a bit too much, a bit too early, and was reportedly trying to nap on the Rachofsky front lawn while his piece landed the milestone bid.

Applauding the Rachofskys' landmark: **Tracy Madans** in a black-plumed Azzedine Alaïa pumps; birthday girl **Jennifer Eggle** with husband **John**; **Deedie and Rusty Rose**; art dealer **Edward Tyler Nahem**; **Kim and Tony Horton**; New York collectors **Amy and John Phelan**; upcoming Art Ball co-chairs **Julie Hawes** and **Merry Vose**; **Joanne and Mark Giambone**; artist **Jay Shinn**; **Marion and Nash Flores**; hairstylist **Ceron**, wearing a custom-made pair of rhinestone, chain and stud-encrusted jeans from Houston designer **Castillo**; Art Basel rep **Dan Tanzilli**; **Ana and Don Carty**; and **Debbie and Eric Green**.

OVERHEARD

"I'm so blown away by how Howard and Cindy have nurtured this event — a world class fundraiser. And f*****'n' Patti LaBelle is in the house?" — **Tony Award-winning actor and Plano native John Benjamin Hickey**

"Getting tickets to tonight was more difficult than getting tickets to that other 'small event' going on tonight." — **co-chairman Gary Tigges on the coinciding evenings with the World Series**

"Wow, I'm such a whore and I still have more to go!" — **Alan Cumming via video, running through the sponsor list**

"He's the most altruistic person I know ... you could say that he uses his platform to speak up for the down at heel." — **Stanley Tucci on Kenneth Cole**

"Buy art ... drink really good wine ... buy more art ... and drink more wine." — **Kenneth Cole**

"You can have her in your kitchen, in the bedroom, in your cars ... it sounds disgusting and wonderful all at the same time." — **Stanley Tucci on introducing Patti LaBelle and her endless licensing**