



# THE YOUNG & PHILANTHROPIC

MEET SEVEN LEADING ART LOVERS WHO ARE REDEFINING THE TERM "PATRON." FEARLESS, UNFLAGGING, AND WELL UNDER 40, THEY REPRESENT THE FUTURE OF THE DALLAS ART SCENE.



The city's art world has plenty of high-profile supporters and boldfaced names. Bass, Rachofsky, and Wyly – to name a few – emblazon our most important artistic venues. But a new generation of patrons is quietly emerging in Dallas, and the talented individuals influencing our future are as contemporary as the artists they follow and the works they collect. Though we can easily count numerous youthful art scene regulars, from gallerists to collectors, we've set our sights on seven strong leaders who are likely to leave a lasting impression on Dallas' cultural community.

**MELISSA MEEKS.** (left) *Director for TWOxTWO for Aids and Art; member of the Art Council for the Dallas Cowboys Art Program.* Meeks's childhood curiosity about art blossomed into a career during college, where she opted to study art history for both her undergraduate and graduate degrees. "For me, it is the way a single piece of art can tell a story and the power it has to invigorate a person's mind and heart and engage the human spirit that is most fascinating."

Meeks says. This year, she will be active in upcoming art commissions at Cowboys Stadium and is already prepping for next year's TWOxTWO, with impending trips to New York for the spring art fairs.

*First Loves.* "I did an internship with the Rachofsky House, and that experience opened my eyes to a new world of contemporary art and how a collection – and its owners – can make such an impact in a community."

*Current Obsessions.* "A few of my current favorites are Teresita Fernandez, Franz Ackermann, Mark Bradford, Richard Phillips, Ricci Albenda, Marlene Dumas, Jim Hodges, and Doug Aitken...I remain open to new ideas and aesthetics in the traditional way, which is essentially to keep looking at art and then look some more."

*More, Please.* "One thing I hope to continue working on is bringing great contemporary art to this community, especially in public venues. I'd like to see more projects like the Cowboys Stadium collection, where viewers can look at art in places they might not expect to see it."