

Liz Larner, *2 as 3 and Some Too For Howard Rachofsky*, 1999, stainless steel, fiberglass, and paint, 121 x 112 x 120 in. The Rachofsky Collection. Installation view at Green Acres, Napa.



Green Acres

For Cindy and Howard Rachofsky,
their summer home in Napa is the place to be.

BY TERRI PROVENCAL
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Lisa Runyon, co-chair of TWO x TWO for AIDS and Art, and Cindy Rachofsky pick carrots on the property.

“We don’t eat anything we don’t grow here,” Cindy Rachofsky shares by phone. She’s in Napa Valley with her husband, Howard, at their summer home, which they share with two dogs, Sophie and Dumpling, the newest family member—a petite Shichon—named by Howard, Cindy says. And on their verdant property, nothing is neglected or untilled. Every spare patch of the nine-and-a-half-acre lot is used to grow, whether it’s cabernet grapevines, flowers, 34 species of tomatoes, 15 types of peppers, six types of carrots and cucumbers, plus beets, husk cherries, peaches, and a myriad of other fruits and vegetables. Even an apiary painted by a local artist is replete with honeybees.

The property is also roomy enough for visits from friends, family, art dealers, curators, museum directors, and their rotating sculpture collection, which effortlessly blends with the groomed acreage designed by landscape architect Steve Arns. “The grounds are full of art that we love living with,” say the renowned collectors and founders of TWO x TWO for AIDS and Art, which benefits amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research, and the Dallas Museum of Art, to which the couple has bequeathed their collection.

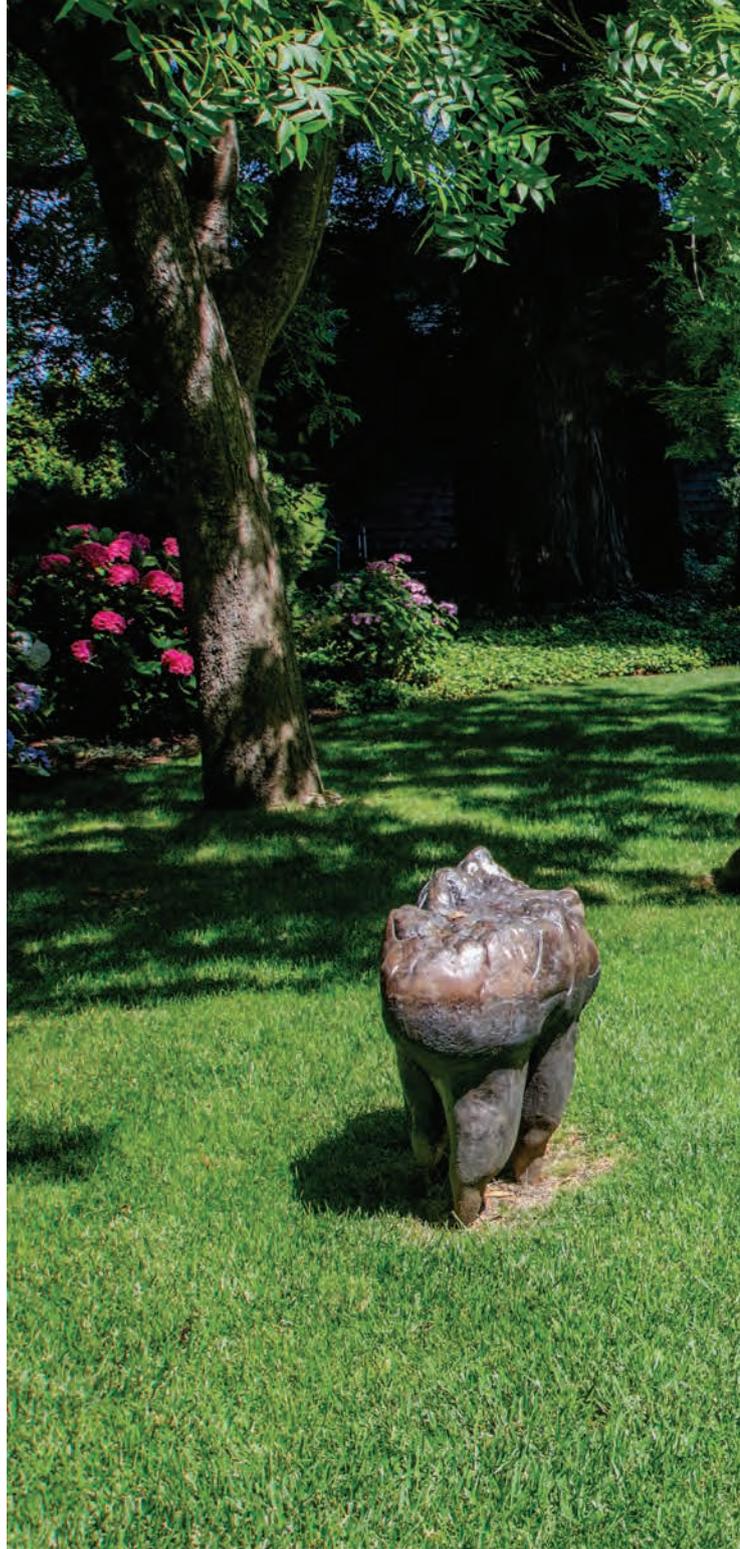
After stretches of heavy art travel—London; Art Basel, Hong Kong and Switzerland; and Venice Biennale, at which they arrived via a friend’s boat boarded in Montenegro with a stop in Croatia—the Rachofskys unwind at this resplendent property known fondly as Green Acres.

“We love to have friends come and stay with us and to entertain our local friends for dinner,” says Cindy. San Francisco architect



Cindy Rachofsky

Ugo Rondinone, *the loving*, 2013, bluestone, granite, and steel, figure: 85.5 x 22 x 30 in., pedestal: 4 x 32 x 32 in. The Rachofsky Collection. Installation view at Green Acres, Napa.



Otani Workshop, *Child with Stripes*, c. 2015, ceramic, wood, canvas, and steel, 136 x 75.5 x 78 in. The Rachofsky Collection. Installation view at Green Acres, Napa.





William Duff took care of that by repurposing a century-old hay barn that was on the land into a “modern take on a barn,” the Rachofskys say. “We wanted to turn the barn into an entertaining space. We needed a catering kitchen, a proper bar, a powder bath, and a full gym.”

Duff, the founder and principal of WDA, restored, reinvented, and relocated the hay barn nearer to the home and pool and installed a concrete plinth beneath its structure so it would roost like a sculpture itself, surrounded by Napa vineyards. Sun-streamed light through the barn’s exterior timeworn slats and gaps engages with the interiors. With the barn doors fully opened, mirrored pavilions on either side of the dining table reflect guests comingled with the nature outdoors, appearing in perpetuity. At night, the lighted barn glows. “We didn’t want to change anything about the exterior of the barn, only the inside, so it would be a surprise when you walked in,” the Rachofskys say. A found gazebo was also transformed into a Moroccan-style gathering place for cocktails. Designed by Rob

Dailey, all the gazebo’s accoutrements were discovered on trips to Morocco. “We fell in love with Morocco,” Cindy recalls of their first trip there.

The barn, gazebo, and a host of other surprises share rich company with not only guests, but prized sculpture. By Otani Workshop, *Child with Stripes* is the work of one Japanese artist, Shigeru Otani, rather than a collective, as the name implies. Born in Shiga Prefecture and mentored by Takashi Murakami, Otani’s imaginative beings effuse personality and explore the relationship between ceramics and sculpture while blurring the boundaries of craft and fine art. An imposing bluestone, granite, and steel figure by the Swiss-born, New York–based artist Ugo Rondinone, titled *the loving*, stands guard on the opposite side of the pool.

Kiki Smith’s cast bronze *Cave Bear Teeth* shows her shift to the animal kingdom in the mid-’90s while maintaining her emphasis on the human condition. Of a similar palette, the painterly glazed celadon-bluish layers of *Badal 40422-01* by South Korean artist Lee



Richard Long, *Rochechouart Circle*, 1990, caolin stone, 236.25 in. diameter. The Rachofsky Collection. Installation view at Green Acres, Napa.



Beehive painted by a local artist.



Gazebo found on property redesigned with a Moroccan theme.



Lee Hun Chung, *Bad140422-01*, 2014, glazed ceramic in traditional grayish-blue powdered celadon, gold leaf, and copper, installation dimensions variable. The Rachofsky Collection. Installation view at Green Acres, Napa.



Lisa and John Runyon, Cindy and Howard Rachofsky, Alex and Matthew Looney.

Hun Chung exemplify the contoured ceramic art furniture for which he is known.

Liz Larner’s *2 as 3 and Some Too For Howard Rachofsky* is here for the season. “We loved the floating cubes and how they related to the formal geometry of the Richard Meier house,” Howard says. “We brought it out to Napa because we rotate the outdoor works in Dallas.” A California native based in Los Angeles, Larner, one of the 10 sculptors from across the globe commissioned for the *Nasher XChange* 10-site exhibition celebrating the Nasher Sculpture Center’s decade in art, stretches the limits of three-dimensional object making, and on this estate, her sculpture appears ready to bend with the breeze.

Presently, a stone-based work by Richard Long, *Rochebonart Circle*, is installed, along with Mark Handforth’s painted-aluminum sculpture *Pink Panther*, which casts an unexpected shadowed star on the lawn during the course of the day. Now based in Miami, Handforth is a Hong Kong-born, London-raised sculptor recognized for his frequently photographed red star, *Texas Tom*, from The Rachofsky Collection, currently on view in the Eagle Family Plaza at the Dallas Museum of Art.

All of these works and much more held at The Rachofsky House and The Warehouse in Dallas have made the Rachofskys a household name across the globe, as have their grand gestures of philanthropy, most notably through TWO x TWO; the First Look preview, gala, and art auction takes place at their Dallas home.

Now sharing “the mantle of leadership” with cohosts and houseguests Lisa and John Runyon of Runyon Arts, Cindy offers, “When the Runyons were here we had lots of quiet time



Mark Handforth, *Pink Panther*, 2016, aluminum and painted Unikat, 120.125 x 69.25 x 47.625 in. The Rachofsky Collection. Installation view at Green Acres, Napa.



Howard Rachofsky and Dumpling.

to discuss TWO x TWO: The art donations, the table and ticket sales, the auction, the tent decor. Since this is their first year, we are literally going through every single detail with them.”

The Runyons, too, are recognized as influencers in the art community. As an art advisor, John has worked extensively with Howard on the art auction over the past several years. “We are fortunate to be included!” the couple says. “In Napa, the Rachofskys have been gracious hosts for many years. We are really quite compatible in all categories of art, exercise, and food. Of course the meals are incredible, a true farm-to-table that equals any I have ever experienced.”

And, John says, “The life the Rachofskys lead in Napa is far different from their Dallas existence, filled with obligations, philanthropy, and travel. Green Acres is where they recharge their batteries from the crazy schedule they keep the rest of the year. However, don’t think for a second they are not active while in Napa. Cindy and Howard are up at crack of dawn collecting the day’s bounty, followed by a vigorous workout. Howard works out twice a day—not kidding.”

When the final blush of summer unfolds at the end of August, the Rachofskys return to Dallas and hit the ground running. The Runyons also return, though last we checked they were cruising the Aeolian Islands with their two children and friends. “We witnessed the eruptions of Stromboli Island last night; pretty amazing,” says John. But now there is much work to do. The impressive \$84 million in funds raised at TWO x TWO over the past 20 years did not come easily. The 21st installment, which will honor artist Alex Katz, is around the corner in October, and it’s time to get busy. **P**



Interior of the barn designed by architect William Duff.