# Coveted Art, Well-Heeled Guests and a Jolly Auctioneer: Another Glorious Evening at Two by Two for AIDS and Art

By Brooke Hortenstine. Photography Steve Foxall.

A gospel choir belted "O Happy Day" on the long driveway to **Cindy** and **Howard Rachofsky**'s Richard Meier estate, singing in tempo to artist Maurizio Cattelan's untitled sculpture — known to most as "the little drummer boy" — tapping from his perch up high on the roof of the Rachofsky house. Only at the Two by Two for AIDS and Art gala, benefitting the American Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR) and the Dallas Museum of Art, would all parts be so perfectly timed. "Do I look like Mary Tyler Moore or what?" said **Patti Crews**, swishing up the driveway in a wasp-waisted Chado Ralph Rucci dress, a vision of harmony herself in more than 180 carats of rubies and diamonds from Harry Winston. The famed jewelry house, a platinum sponsor along with Tolleson Wealth Management, layered Two by Two table hostesses in baubles flown in from New York. But, believe me, guests following in Crews' steps weren't lacking in luster: **Lisa Arpey** had slipped into a shimmering black Badgley Mischka, **Angie Barrett** elected a brightly beaded Gianni Versace Couture, **Sharon Young** chose a sleek and shiny Comme des Garçons skirt and vintage Koi cashmere top, **Jan Showers** had plucked a sparkling ivory Prada pleated gown from the L.A. store, and **Leigh Taylor** had dialed vintage vendor Sally Rosen for her iridescent lacework dress. **Dorothy Berwin** broke from the name-brand pack and chose a vintage tomato-red minidress. "I got it from Edmund Lo," she said, enlightening us on the find. "He's a great guy who sells vintage fashion right out of his apartment in New York!" Berwin added an iconic piece to her repertoire that evening: a 1965 photograph of Mae West by Diane Arbus, scored from the live auction.

For dinner, guests were ushered to a transparent tent on the back lawn and treated to **Todd Fiscus**' caviar-and-champagne-hued decor. Mirrored screens flanked the entrance; indoor tables were draped in brown velvet and set with flutes overflowing with Dom Pérignon en magnum 1993 — the perfect setting to complement the caviar from Nikita. Charming co-chairmen **Brian Bolke**, in his Moschino tuxedo, and **Naomi Aberly**, in a Narciso Rodriguez gown, took to the stage and presented the Rachofskys with a modern token of thanks: "Six bottles of Dom in a Richard Meier–designed box!" Bolke announced, handing over a Lucite container filled with bubbly. "The generous spirit of Two by Two is Howard and Cindy," Bolke continued, "and I know this is the perfect gift for them." Designer **Kenneth Cole** followed with words as poignant as his proactive ad campaigns: "I urge you to bid generously tonight," he said, making a timely foray into the stage appearance of Sotheby auctioneer **Jamie Niven**, who is the son of British actor David Niven. With Cole's inspiring delivery and Niven's devilish wit — "This is the only stage where I'm in jeopardy of setting my ass on fire!" Niven quipped about the lit candles hanging from the rafters — the lack of Two by Two's traditional star guest wasn't noticed. (And the trio of vintage-couture dealer **Cameron Silver**, designer **Tracey Ross** and jewelry designer **Loree Rodkin**, all L.A.–based, more than made up for it.) A stay in Ian Fleming's Goldeneye hideaway, where Fleming wrote all 13 James Bond novels, caused **Will Rose** to unknowingly bid against his mum **Deedie Rose**. After the gavel fell, Niven declared to the winner, "Mr. $35,000, you've been bidding against your *mother*!" All told, a record $1.6 million was raised, with Dallas Museum of Art director **Jack Lane** affirming the local impact of amfAR's national fund-raising efforts. "Because of Two by Two, the DMA has added more than 250 works of contemporary art to the collection," said a very satisfied Lane.

Breaching out: Artist Jennifer Steinkamp's video "tree" for night on the back wall at the Rachofsky House

Deedie Rose

Nicole Wright

Jack Lane

Amy Schwartzman, Howard Rachofsky

Kenneth Cole & Maria Cuomo Cole

Roselyn St. Pe Colombo, Jan Haag, Susie Kirk

Ann & David Sutherland

Nancy Hadnot

Joel Shapiro, Anne Lunt

Sharon & Michael Young

Marguerite & Robert Hoffman

Stacey Ross, Loree Rodkin, Cameron Silver

David Quadrini, Jennifer Eagle, John Eagle

Telida Pickens, Jan Showers

Heidi & Bill Dillon

Mark Seal, Angie Barrett

"I'm selling a live artist. And more to my horror, I'm selling an artist sitting in this very room!"

*— Auctioneer **Jamie Niven** on the **Joel Shapiro** sculpture (which sold for $85,000 to **John** and **Jennifer Eagle**) up for bid with Shapiro himself looking on*

## who else was there

Lela Rose & Brandon Jones
Rex Cumming
Rozanne & Billy Rosenthal
Larry Lebowitz
Kim & Tony Horton
Elizabeth Showers
Christina Atanasieff
Kathy & Rodney Woods
Muffin & John Lemak
Perri & Gary Guthrie
Nancy & Lowell Duncan
Curtis Liborda
Debra Stevens
Ana & Don Carty
Becky & Bill Morris
Miles McEnry
Olivia & Jeff Kearney
Lonnie & Michael Martin
Jenny & John Kirtland