

Q&A

BY AVA ROOSEVELT

SOUTH FLORIDA OPULENCE SERIES ON PHILANTHROPY

Iris Cantor:

Sharing Rodin
with the World

Brooklyn born and fiercely proud of it, Iris Cantor, a statuesque former model and stockbroker, is cited among the 50 top philanthropists in the United States and is head of the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation since 1978. With primary interests in medicine and the arts, the foundation has donated several hundreds of millions to museums and hospitals.

Low-key and known for her no-nonsense style, Iris has received the National Medal of Arts awarded by President Clinton in 1995 and the rank of Chevalier in the French National Order of the Legion of Honour in 2000; but you'll never know it meeting her.

Over the years, the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation has donated approximately 450 Rodin pieces to New York's Metropolitan Museum, Brooklyn Museum, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and Stanford University. In addition, New York University's Tisch School of the Arts: Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Film Center, Faye's Café in honor of Iris's mother, the College of the Holy Cross-The Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Art Gallery were created. Since 1995, Iris has been a Trustee of the Metropolitan Museum. She is an Honorary Trustee of the North Carolina Museum of Art and a former Trustee of the Brooklyn Museum and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

The scope of Iris and B. Gerald Cantor's generosity truly hit home when I visited the Metropolitan Museum of Art with an ultra-sophisticated Francophile friend this spring. A serious art collector herself, who lives steps away from the Louvre and the Musée d'Orsay, she was awed by the span of the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor exhibit. Basking in the soft light, Rodin's sculptures mesmerize thousands of the museum's visitors each and every year.

Iris's late husband, B. Gerald Cantor, Bernie to his friends, was the pioneering founder of Cantor Fitzgerald L.P., one of the largest government bond brokers in the country with a blue-chip institutional customer list that includes the nation's biggest banks, pension funds, mutual fund managers and corporate treasurers. Iris and Bernie were married nearly 20 years until his death in 1996.

Bernie Cantor's love-at-first-sight encounter in 1945 with Rodin's sculpture *The Hand of God* in marble, at the Met, inspired what was to become the largest and most comprehensive private collection of the works by Auguste Rodin in the world.

Legend has it Bernie was strolling one day on Madison Avenue and saw *The Hand of God*, in bronze, displayed in a gallery window and immediately walked in. "I was just at the Met and saw one in marble, is this one authentic?" Bernie inquired. "Yes, it is. Rodin worked in many mediums and he did enlargements, as well as reductions, of his works. This is the bronze reduction of the marble *Hand of God*. If you're interested in Rodin, you must visit the Musée Rodin in France," the dealer responded. "One day I will. For now, how much is *The Hand*?"

"Ninety five dollars."

"I'll take it," Bernie said, and then he thought about it.

"I just spent two months rent."

THE SCULPTOR: AUGUSTE RODIN

In 1880, Auguste Rodin was commissioned to create his most ambitious endeavor, 20 years in the making: an entrance portal for a new decorative arts museum, which was never built. A set of doors was later named *The Gates of Hell*.



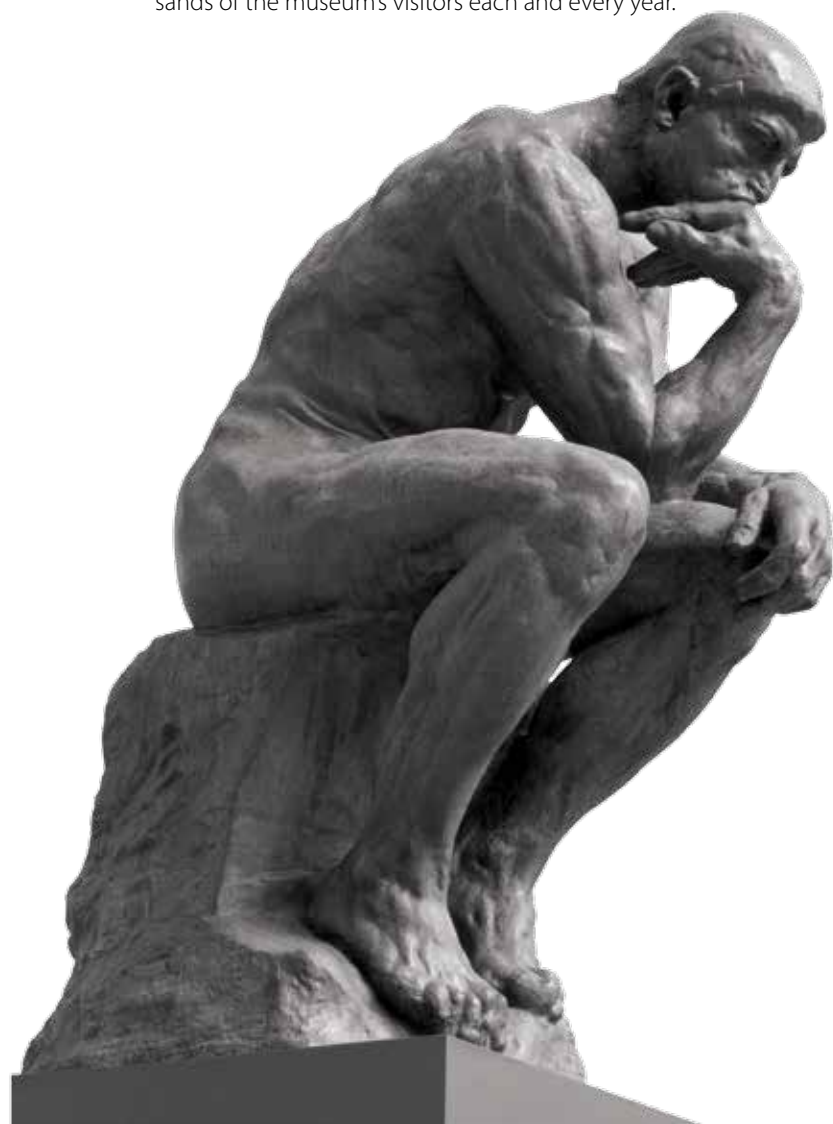
In 1978, more than 100 years later, Iris's and Bernie's foresight and their iron will saw *The Gates of Hell*, nearly 21 feet high, cast in bronze. The large-scale commission took more than three years to complete and achieved a lasting legacy of one of the most celebrated artists of the turn of the century. It made Auguste Rodin, the progenitor of modern sculpture, a household name worldwide. At Iris's suggestion, the project inspired an award-winning documentary called *Rodin, the Gates of Hell*.

Q: Tell us about the process; what inspired this project?

Iris Cantor: "Foremost, it was Bernie's love and passion for Rodin, and the enormous challenge it presented. Our commission, the fifth such undertaking, turned out to be a very historic event because it was the first time in more than a century that a painstaking lost-wax process to cast *The Gates of Hell* in bronze was successfully completed. All other versions were made in sandcasting. Bernie was once asked why he waited so long. 'Simply, I didn't have the money,' he said."

Q: What do you feel when you visit Stanford University's exhibit?

Iris Cantor: "I feel a sense of accomplishment that my late husband, Bernie, resurrected Rodin. Because of his passion for Rodin's works,





Newly installed Rodin exhibit courtesy of the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation at the North Carolina Museum of Art.

Bernie's goal was always to share it with the public, and he did. And so do I."

Q: Spreading the gospel of Rodin's greatness and funding numerous museums and universities and hospital expansions clearly has been the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor foundation's mantra. How do you determine who will become a recipient?

Iris Cantor: "Before I become personally involved in a project, I look for two essential qualities. First, the cause must be something I feel passionate about. And second, I want to make a real difference by supporting that cause – and by encouraging others to do the same."

Q: From where do you draw the inspiration to foresee the impact your generosity will have on the future generations?

Iris Cantor: "My excitement about the project inspires me. I know when I finish, the impact will be there for everyone to see and share. Generosity lives on and there will always be generous people. Hopefully my generation will ignite a spark in the generations to come to share their good fortunes with others."

Q: The part of the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor collection that was removed from the World Trade Center Cantor Fitzgerald

headquarters prior to 9/11 miraculously survived. What prompted this move? Was it fate?

Iris Cantor: "When Bernie was alive, we actually had a museum there at one time, by appointment only. With numerous visitors, it became disturbing to the day-to-day functions of the firm. The collection then was moved and was divided between the Met and the Brooklyn Museum. Fate, I don't know, perhaps."

Q: And what message or advice would you give to a 'budding' collector today?

Iris Cantor: "Buy what you love, that's what I would tell them."

Q: What more do you aspire to achieve personally in the years to come?

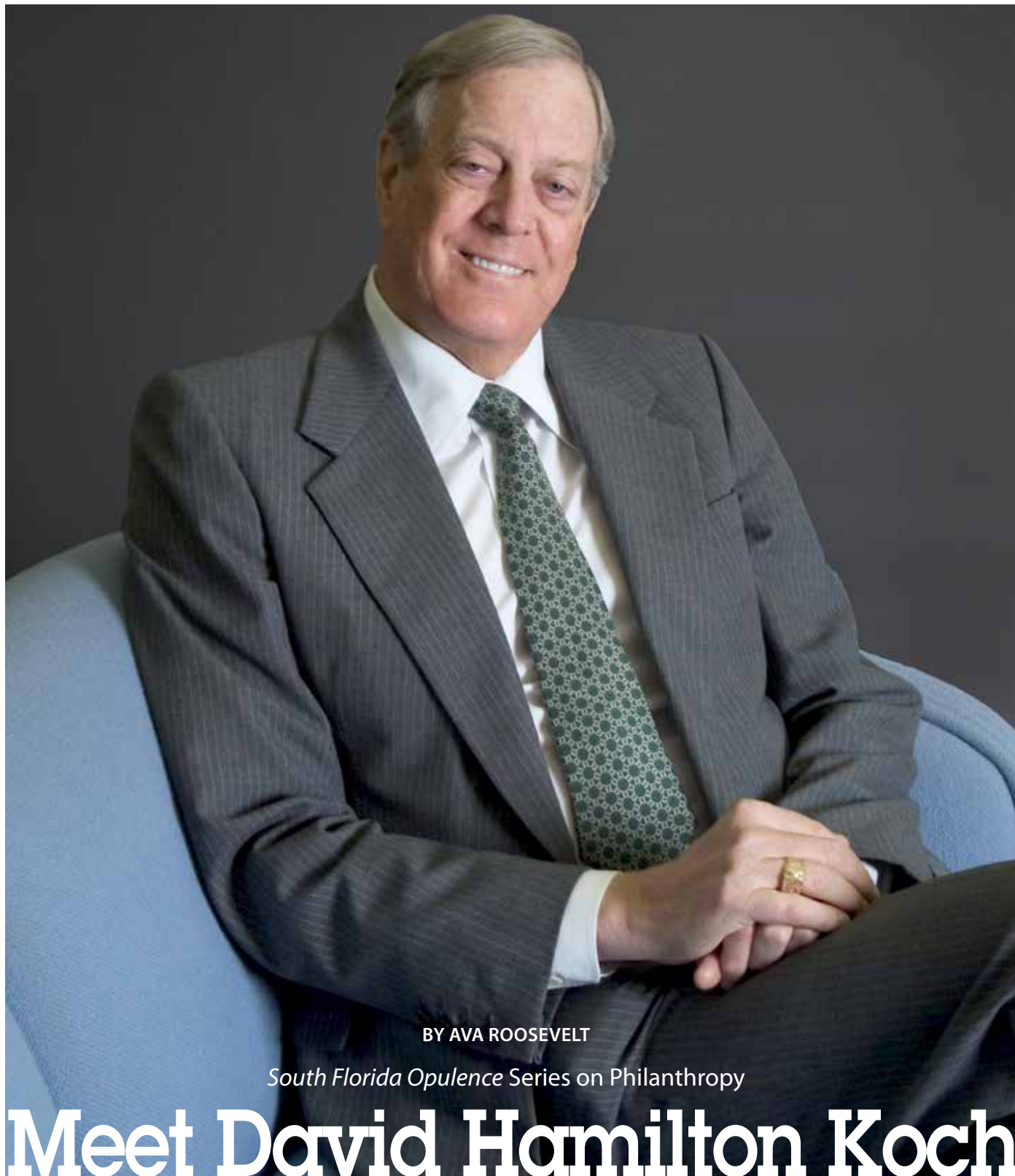
Iris Cantor: "As much as I can do! I would love to be the inspiration to the young people around me. I believe one person can make a difference."

More about the philanthropy of Iris Cantor: Ms. Cantor was instrumental in the creation of the UCLA Women's Health Center, and the New-York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Iris Cantor Women's and Men's Health Centers, the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Ambulatory Surgery Center and B. Gerald Cantor Laboratory for Immunological Research in Diabetes, has funded a Senior Chair at Memorial Sloan-

Kettering Cancer Center and serves on the Board of Trustees of the New York-Presbyterian Hospital. ●

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— Iris Cantor



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South Florida Opulence Series on Philanthropy

Meet David Hamilton Koch

One of the most generous, low-key philanthropists in America, a married father of three, David Hamilton Koch has donated during the course of his life over a billion dollars to charity.

Philanthropist, political activist, MIT educated chemical engineer, and former basketball player, David is an executive vice president of Koch Industries, the second-largest pri-

vately held company in the United States that employs 50,000 people in the U.S. alone. He is also the fourth richest person in America as of 2012, and the second richest resident of New York City as of 2010.

We met in our single days, in Washington at the Senatorial Dining Room, during David's bid for Vice-President in the 1980 Presidential Election and we have remained friends ever since. The then Libertarian's Party's VP candi-

date shared a ticket with presidential candidate Ed Clark and received 1.06 percent of the total nationwide vote, the Libertarian Party's best showing to date. David broke with the Libertarian party in 1984 and has been a Republican ever since. Yet, from a 32-year perspective, and with all that went wrong with the Republicans in 2012, a chance to recover from the defeat to President Obama seems like a tall order.

Time Magazine included David and his brother Charles among the 100 most influential people in 2011, but meeting David you'll never know what actions have earned him this distinction. Apart from David's family life, his accomplishments are vast, life-changing and have created tens of thousands of jobs.

David's concerns about Obamacare, runaway government spending, looming inflation, and rising interest rates are well known. He's in favor of individual liberty, lower taxes and smaller government. After surviving a plane crash in 1991, he said, "I felt like the good Lord spared my life for a purpose. And since then I've been busy doing all the good works I can think of."

David clearly believes in a better America, a prosperous one, and yet he is wildly criticized for conservative views which many share with each other quite openly without so much scrutiny. Personally, I'll never know how it feels to be singled out because of one's wealth, but I can't fathom it not being

When last year, Koch's family treasured Christmas card did not arrive, I called David.

"David, have I fallen off the list?"

"We are keeping a low profile," David answered. "You'll receive a Valentine's Day card instead."

As promised, the Valentine's Day card materialized. The sight of David surrounded by Julia his wife of 17 years, and their three children, depicted a barefooted, casually attired family, not unlike yours or mine. If I didn't know any better, I would dare to contradict F. Scott Fitzgerald to say that the rich are not different from you and me.

"Lord knows I don't need a job," David was quoted as saying in a recent interview, yet he reports to his office every day at 9 a.m., and will usually leave by 7 p.m. "I love business," Koch says. "My brother Charles and I are going to be carried out of our offices feet first. We'll work until we drop."

Fortunately for our generation and those to come, the massive fortune generated

In 1992 David was diagnosed with prostate cancer. On August 31, 1997, (the night of Princess Diana's untimely death), David, surrounded by his family and friends, celebrated five-cancer-free years at his house in Southampton, an evening all of us present will never forget. The music and the fireworks stopped with Diana's passing but David's tireless quest to find the cure for cancer continues.

Since 2000, David H. Koch Charitable Foundation has pledged more than \$750 million to cancer research, educational and cultural institutions, arts, public policy studies and medical centers, such as John Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, the David H. Koch Cancer Research Building, the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York, the Hospital of Special Surgery in New York City, the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, New-York Presbyterian Hospital Weill Cornell Medical Center, a new ambulatory care center at New York-Presbyterian Hospital and MIT, his alma mater.

It is not without reason that, since 2006, the Chronicle of Philanthropy has listed Koch as one of the world's top 50 philanthropists.

a good feeling in David's case, since he has been sharing his good fortunes so selflessly.

Koch's name is not only synonymous with a colossal affluence estimated to be a hundred billion dollars (and the power it yields) but, also seldom has one man, in one generation, donated so much to so many diversified causes as David H. Koch has done over the years.

Should you take a stroll in Manhattan, whether you're an art devotee, ballet enthusiast or simply love to take your kids to see dinosaurs, the hard-to-miss monuments of David's generosity, the American Museum of Natural History David H. Koch Dinosaur Wing, The New York State Theater at Lincoln Center, home of the New York City Ballet, now renamed David H. Koch Theater, the Metropolitan Museum of Art's outdoor fountains, are all in plain view and inspire awe and respect. Yet, it might be generations before David H. Koch's charity is fully appreciated.

by fierce work habits (instilled by his father Fred and the Koch brothers' business savvy extraordinaire) is put to work to promote research to eradicate cancer and to inspire us, while living, supporting theaters, music and ballet. David has contributed to the Public Broadcasting Systems (PBS), to the Smithsonian, to Deerfield Academy, to the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory and he was honored with the Double Helix Medal for Corporate Leadership. It is not without reason that, since 2006, the Chronicle of Philanthropy has listed Koch as one of the world's top 50 philanthropists.

Should you be one of the handpicked recipients of the most coveted invitation in Palm Beach, The Coconuts' New Year's Eve party, you'll never forget the almost hour-long pyrotechnical and musical extravaganza provided by David's generous contribution (worthy of Monte Carlo's heydays) to be seen for miles by all residents of the Palm Beaches.

Thanks to David's bequests, countless lives are saved daily, but it wasn't until my late husband, Bill Roosevelt, was diagnosed with prostate cancer himself that the scope of David's generosity got personal and truly hit home. I credit him (and I am eternally grateful) for prolonging Bill's life by facilitating access to the newest treatments at the time, including experimental ones.

On December 13, 2013, David's being honored at Palm Beach's Mar-a-Lago Making Cancer History Award Gala, which also celebrates the life of the late Maria Floyd.

For more information, please visit: events@mdanderson.com

"David Koch is a great American and a wonderful human being," said Donald Trump.

"I concur with Mr. Trump's view, wholeheartedly." ~ Ava Roosevelt. 🍷