

Gayatri Carole Rocherolle, along with her husband, Jerome, is co-owner of Shanti Bithi Nursery, one of the largest growers and importers of Bonsai in the United States. A former assistant curator of the Joan and Lester Avnet Art Collection, Carole has been designing gardens with her husband for the past 30 years. They have traveled to more than 40 countries, visiting gardens and nurseries in search of unusual material for their garden designs. Photos and articles about the Rocherolles' work have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Financial Times* (London), *House & Garden*, *Garden Design*, *Architectural Digest* (Germany), *Vogue Country Living* (Australia), and other publications. The author has been documenting the development of the Steinhardt Gardens for the past 19 years. This is her first book.

Michael and Judy Steinhardt, whose 54-acre garden features in this book, are renowned philanthropists. Judy Steinhardt is the co-chairman and past president of the American Friends of the Israel Museum and the chairman of the board of New York University's Institute of Fine Arts. Michael Steinhardt, a retired money manager, is the founding co-chairman of Birthright Israel, one of many charities that he has endowed and actively supports. Michael and Judy's generous endowment funded the Steinhardt Conservatory at the Brooklyn Botanical Garden. The Steinhardt School of Education at New York University is another of their legacies.

Richard Felber is a professional landscape and garden photographer who has been photographing the Steinhardt Gardens for the past 13 years. His work is featured in *Beautiful American Rose Gardens*, *Potted Gardens*, *An Affair with a House*, and many other books. His photographs appear frequently in *House & Garden*, *Garden Design*, *Martha Stewart Living*, *Metropolitan Home*, *Real Simple* and other prominent magazines.

Darlyne Murawski, a versatile nature photographer with a doctoral degree in biology, has written and photographed several children's books, — *Bug Faces*, *Spiders and their Webs*, and *Animal Faces* — amongst others. She is a regular contributor to *National Geographic Magazine*.

Edward Henrey, a freelance artist and graphic designer with a degree in biology, has illustrated publications for the Audubon Society and for Westchester Parks and Recreation. His drawings, paintings, and illustrations have been commissioned by the White House, corporations, and schools.

"The Steinhardt Gardens are a fantastic horticultural extravaganza. The collections of rare plants—cultivars of Japanese maples, ferns, conifers, magnolias, woodland ephemerals and more—are all tucked into a beautiful sweeping Westchester landscape with a lovely romantic aspect especially created with artful water features. Imagine all of this now populated with an astounding array of exotic birds and animals and you have the Steinhardt Gardens—a wonderland of plants, animals and the delight of the exotic from around the world. It is one of the great private gardens in America at this time. I always enjoy being there and always learn a new plant or a new horticultural tip from their fabulous gardeners . . . Visit there if you can!"

– Kim Tripp, Ph.D., Director of the New York Botanical Garden

photographs by Richard Felber