

Rachel Laxer & Martha Sturdy Interview

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Left: Martha Sturdy. Photo by Claudtte Carracedo. Right: Rachel Laxer. Photo by Gwen Shabka.

Caption

RACHEL: So Martha, what's one major thing you take from Canada that intertwines into your designs?

MARTHA: Nature—I love to spend time on my own outdoors, appreciating the beauty and uniqueness of the trees, forests and streams that surround my farm north of Whistler, British Columbia. You can see these elements in everything from my furniture to my fine art.



MARTHA: It seems like London is your base right now... what are the differences in designing there and designing in your second home, New York?

RACHEL: The biggest difference is I find New York projects are more likely to want a "turnkey project" and the London projects are happy to "layer" over time. I like a bit of both—there is something very satisfying about the completed home and there is also something a bit wonderful about leaving items open for the unexpected find—I call it the "Mad Hatter" element in my projects, it is the moment when you stumble on the weird and wonderful that pulls it all together.

RACHEL: Who was the nicest person you ever worked for?

Rachel Laxer Interiors

MARTHA: I've only ever had one boss and it was when I helped put my husband through university and worked the night shift at a bank in my 20's! After graduating from Emily Carr University I started creating my own wearable sculpture, furniture, and fine art—and I've never looked back.

MARTHA: As a mom, how does having children impact your designs?

RACHEL: My girls always have an opinion! Apples do not fall far from the tree. Their input helps to inform my philosophy of "relaxed elegance"—the home should be a place where it feels wonderful but nothing is too precious it can't be enjoyed. I tell clients that it is ok to embrace the scratches and patina over time. Once they do, people tend to enjoy their home a bit more and worry less that they might mark things up. I like to have yearly follow-ups with my clients to send in refinishers—French polishers so nothing gets too worn out, just comfortably lived in.



RACHEL: You seem to gravitate toward steel, wood, resin, and brass—what is it about these materials that inspires you?

MARTHA: In art school we had to work with many materials, and steel, wood, resin and brass struck a real chord with me. I've used these materials in different ways and in different scales ever since.

Martha Sturdy

MARTHA: I really love modern art, is there anything that's a "do not miss" I should know about?

RACHEL: I love the [Frieze Art Fair](#) and then The Satellite Fair—the town gets very buzzy and exciting—it is in October in Regent's park, the setting and time of year is really magical. Come visit me :)

RACHEL: What's new and upcoming for you?



MARTHA: I recently created a brass sculpture series called *Undulating* that was featured in [Holly Hunt](#) in LA and Chicago. The

response has been amazing.

MARTHA: So [Rachel](#), what does your next vacation look like?

RACHEL: My next weekend trip is to Paris with my younger daughter and a fellow mom and her daughter. I try to take the girls individually with a friend each year to a different European city. My older daughter and I spent a weekend in Copenhagen in the spring and the Danish design was inspiring—I found amazing vintage lights for a project in Bridgehampton! I am forever on the hunt for interesting items. [Martha](#)—it was such a pleasure spending time chatting with you!

ABOUT THE DESIGNERS

Martha Sturdy

MARTHA STURDY

Born and raised in British Columbia, [Martha Sturdy](#) has always been inspired and guided by the elements. Materials like mineral and salvaged Cedar find expression in her work—offering a reflection of a landscape that is itself bold, clean and strong.

[Martha](#) has always been enthralled with the scale of nature on the West Coast. Never delicate, but always pared down, her work finds a balance in its weightiness and a resolve in its proportion.





Martha Sturdy

Each piece is an investment, in aesthetic and function. At [Sturdy](#) we release pieces that will be passed down the generations. Our work is created by hand and engenders a sense of confidence in those who are close to it.

**ALL [MARTHA STURDY](#) PRODUCTS ARE AVAILABLE AT [HOLLY HUNT](#)*



Rachel Laxer

RACHEL LAXER

Rachel Laxer

Rachel Laxer is a dynamic interior designer with a distinct global and artistic sensibility that rises above trends and customary design concepts. With an international lifestyle and viewpoint that spans Europe, Asia and the United States, she creates extraordinary interiors marked by meticulous bespoke design details, rare furnishings, functional art and a signature style that is luxurious, practical and unexpected.



Rachel Laxer Interiors