

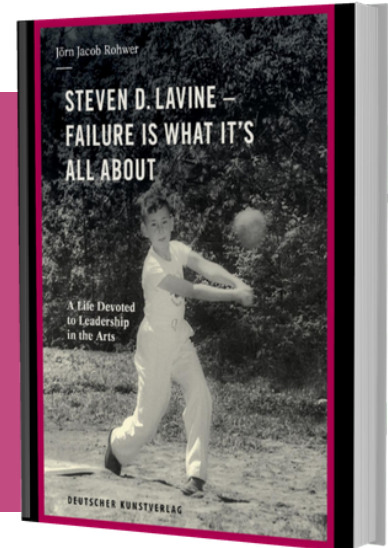
STEVEN D. LAVINE – FAILURE IS WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT

by Jörn Jacob Rohwer

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Walt Disney's vision for an art school located before the gates of Los Angeles became a reality: opened 50 years ago, the California Institute of the Arts had long been in crisis, before Steven D. Lavine led it to financial prosperity and international acclaim. Today, CalArts is the cradle of many Academy Award and Pulitzer Prize winners, of Mellon and Guggenheim Fellows – a hotspot of American creativity.

In personal conversations with Jörn Jacob Rohwer, Dr. Lavine tells his life story for the first time, talking about cultural politics, philanthropy, the avant-garde, and Los Angeles at the center of his life. Spurred on by self-doubts and a desire to learn from failure, he proves to be a sensitive thinker, visionary and transatlantic mediator between the worlds of art, politics, and education.



Photo by Hannes Maar

Jörn Jacob Rohwer is an award-winning author known for elegantly merging elements of literature and journalism. Widely published since 1995, his lengthy profile includes conversations with luminaries from the arts, science, and society. Besides writing, Rohwer works in arts communications and lives in Berlin.



Steven Lavine has been an artistic, educational, and community leader in Los Angeles and nationally for four decades. From 1988 to 2017, he served as President of the California Institute of the Arts. Later, he was recruited as Founding Director and then Chair of the Los Angeles Advisory Council for the Thomas Mann House in L.A. Today, Lavine also consults with a broad range of progressive not-for-profit organizations. He has co-edited two influential books about museum practices: *Exhibiting Cultures: The Poetics and Politics of Museum Display* and *Museums and Communities: The Politics of Public Culture*.