



Davidoff International Art Residency to Welcome First Residents
in January 2015
at Altos de Chavón School of Design, Dominican Republic

Davidoff Limited Art Edition and VIP Programming
at Art Basel, Basel, 2014

Davidoff Art Dialogue to Explore Caribbean Art at SITE Santa Fe
“Confronting Paradise: Land and Landscape in the Caribbean”



Altos de Chavón School of Design, La Romana, Dominican Republic, 2014.

Basel/Switzerland, June 17, 2014 – The Davidoff Art Initiative is pleased to return to Art Basel and announce updates about the Art Initiative’s current and upcoming programming. Launched in 2012, the Davidoff Art Initiative aims to support contemporary art and artists in the Caribbean, in particular in the Dominican Republic, and to foster cultural engagement between the Caribbean and the rest of the world. The Art Initiative is motivated by a commitment to bring much-needed exposure and resources to the cultural community of the region where many employees and much of the production of Oettinger Davidoff are located.

The Davidoff Art Initiative is in the final stages of completing the centerpiece of its global Art Residency program: a new annual residency for international artists in the Dominican Republic. In addition, the Davidoff Art Initiative in May 2014 unveiled the first-ever Davidoff Limited Art Edition at Art Basel in Hong Kong. Another installment in Davidoff Art Dialogue series is also planned, on July 19 in Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA, as part of the opening weekend of SITE Santa Fe’s new biennial exhibition series, *SITELines*.

Davidoff International Art Residency to Open in the Dominican Republic

In January 2015, the Davidoff International Art Residency will welcome its first five international artists to new facilities at Altos de Chavón School of Design in La Romana. The residency will open with five custom-built artist studios designed by Adolfo Despradel, Director of Planning and Design, Costasur Dominicana S.A. (formerly an architectural designer at David Chipperfield Architects, London) at the prestigious Altos de Chavón School of Design in La Romana, Dominican Republic.



Rendering of artist studio at Altos de Chavón School of Design, by Adolfo Despradel, Director of Planning and Design, Costasur Dominicana S.A., 2014.

In collaboration with Altos de Chavón, the country's leading institution for art and design education, the Davidoff International Art Residency will host five selected emerging to mid-career artists from around the world each year, for a period of ten weeks. One of the positions may be filled by an international curator or art writer researching Caribbean art. During the residency, the invited residents will have an opportunity to engage with the Dominican cultural community, as well as with students and residents in Altos de Chavón and neighboring areas.

The selection process for the five artists is by invitation only, facilitated with a global network of art experts who are serving as nominators to the residency program. The nominators for 2015 are: **Aaron Cézár**, founding director of Delfina Foundation in London; **Amanda Coulson**, co-founder/executive director of VOLTA and director of the National Gallery of The Bahamas; **Charles Desmarais**, president of the San Francisco Art Institute; **Mareike Dittmer**, co-publisher of Frieze d/e Magazine and publishing consultant of Frieze Magazine; **Pablo Helguera**, director of adult and academic programs in the Department of Education at the Museum of Modern Art, New York; **Irene Hofmann**, the Phillips Director and Chief Curator of SITE Santa Fe; and, **Philip Tinari**, director of the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art in Beijing. The five selected international artists will be announced in the fall of 2014. Final decisions will be made in September 2014 by Davidoff's International Advisory Council, which includes **Rocío Aranda-Alvarado**, **Dominique Bluhdorn**, **Sara Hermann**, **Andras Szántó**, **Pablo León de la Barra** and **Hans-Kristian Hoejsgaard**.

"The arrival of international artists in the Dominican Republic will elevate the Davidoff Art Residency program to its full potential," said **Hans-Kristian Hoejsgaard**, **CEO and Member of the Board of Oettinger Davidoff AG**. "Now we will witness both sides of this international exchange - with Caribbean artists travelling the world, and with artists from outside the region coming to the Caribbean. We believe these interactions will accelerate the recognition that art and artists in this region so richly deserve. And we could not be more delighted to build this residency in collaboration with the country's leading art school."

Soon after the arrival of the international artists, in late January **2015**, the **second annual Davidoff Art Weekend** will be held in collaboration with Altos de Chavón School of Design and Casa de Campo in the Dominican Republic.

"With the momentous groundbreaking for the five new Davidoff Art Initiative artist's studios at Altos de Chavón comes the promise of a truly exciting collaboration," said **Stephen Kaplan**, **Secretary of Altos de Chavón Cultural Center Foundation and Rector of Altos de Chavón School of Design**. "We at Altos de Chavón eagerly await the selection of the guest artists who will be the first Davidoff *chavoneros* in January 2015."



First Davidoff Limited Art Edition

The first Davidoff Limited Art Edition cigar boxes were unveiled during Art Basel Hong Kong, in May 2014, and will be available in Davidoff's Lounge inside the Collectors Lounge at Art Basel. Featuring original commissioned artwork by the critically acclaimed Caribbean artist, Quisqueya Henríquez, two limited-edition cigar boxes were manufactured in a quantity of 3,000 each, and stocked with custom-made cigars developed exclusively for the Limited Art Edition. Part of all sales generated by the limited editions are dedicated to supporting the Davidoff Art Initiative.



Davidoff Collectors Edition 2014, artwork by Quisqueya Henríquez. Courtesy of the artist

Quisqueya Henríquez was, in addition, invited to create a highly limited run of fifty Collectors Edition boxed sets, which include the special edition box of cigars, as well as an original artist's print from the series of images developed for the project. Each artwork is unique and can be selected by the customer at the time of purchase.

Inspired by a series of visits to Dominican tobacco fields at the artist's own request, the compositions created by Henríquez for the new editions call to mind the intricate handcraft of cigar making and evoke the multiple phases involved in the tradition of cigar manufacture. The richly colored images obtained from the layering of multiple photographs of tobacco leaves create a composition that, while abstract, hints at the source materials involved in their creation.

Artist Talks at Art Basel

During Art Basel this June, the Davidoff Art Initiative will also host a series of talks with several artists who have been involved in the Art Initiative to date, including **Quisqueya Henríquez, Jorge Pineda** and **Mónica Ferreras De la Maza**, in Davidoff's Lounge in the Collectors Lounge, from **June 18-21 from 3:30 to 4:00pm daily**. This will be a welcome opportunity for VIP visitors to the show to meet and interact directly with some of the leading artists of the Caribbean working today.

Davidoff Art Dialogue at SITE Santa Fe

Later this summer, the Davidoff Art Initiative will host a Davidoff Art Dialogue entitled "**Confronting Paradise: Land and Landscape in the Caribbean,**" as part of the opening weekend programming of **SITE Santa Fe's SITElines.2014: Unsettled Landscapes**. *Unsettled Landscapes* is the first edition of SITE's new biennial series with a focus on contemporary art and cultural production of the Americas.

The discussion will be held on **Saturday, July 19 from 11:00am to 12:30pm** at the Santa Fe Performing Arts' Armory for the Arts Theater, in Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA. Moderated by **András Szántó**, Chief Consultant to the Davidoff Art Initiative and member of Davidoff's Art Advisory Committee, the participants will include artist **Blue Curry**, curatorial advisor **Christopher Cozier**, artist **Deborah Jack**, curator and Davidoff Art Initiative Advisory Committee member, **Sara Hermann**, and artist **Glenda Leon**.



The Dialogues are part of the global programming of the Davidoff Art Initiative to encourage an open exchange of information and ideas among artists, collectors, professionals, and newcomers to the world of art.

“The Davidoff Art Initiative is a natural partner for *SITelines*, particularly during the first edition of SITE’s reimaged biennial series, which has placed a special emphasis on Latin America and the Caribbean” said Szántó. “Caribbean art needs to gain currency and familiarity in the global art world, and here and elsewhere, this kind of familiarity is gained, in part, through informed dialogue. It’s an exciting time for the region, but also a challenging one, so there is much to talk about.”

Note to Editors

About Altos de Chavón School of Design

The Altos de Chavón School of Design is a study center of global impact, a pioneer in the teaching of art and design in the Dominican Republic. Founded in 1983 to meet the growing commercial and industrial demands of the Dominican Republic, The School offers degree programs in all areas of art and design in formats long and short duration: Graphic Design, Fashion Design, Fine Art, Illustration, Digital Design, Interior Design, Photography, Film Production and Architecture. For more information, please visit: altosdechavon.edu.do

About Art Basel

Art Basel stages the world's premier art shows for Modern and contemporary works, sited in Basel, Miami Beach and Hong Kong. Defined by its host city and region, each show is unique, which is reflected in its participating galleries, artworks presented, and the content of parallel programming produced in collaboration with local institutions for each edition. In addition to ambitious stands featuring leading galleries from around the world, each show's exhibition sectors spotlight the latest developments in the visual arts, offering visitors new ideas, new inspiration and new contacts in the art world. artbasel.com

About the Davidoff Art Initiative

The Davidoff Art Initiative supports contemporary art and artists in the Caribbean, strengthens art organizations in the Dominican Republic, shares knowledge and expertise about contemporary art, and fosters cultural engagement between the Caribbean and the rest of the world. The Davidoff Art Initiative aims to make a contribution to the cultural community of the Dominican Republic, where much of its production and so many of its employees are based, bringing opportunity and visibility to the art and culture of the Caribbean region, and extending the company’s long-standing commitment to artistry, craftsmanship, community and quality. The Davidoff Art Initiative’s four global program areas are: the Davidoff Art Residency, Davidoff Art Dialogues, Davidoff Art Grants, and Davidoff Art Editions. For more information, please visit: davidoffartinitiative.com

A Century of Davidoff

Henri Davidoff, who emigrated from Kiev to Switzerland at a time of political unrest, opened his first store in Geneva in 1911, laying the foundations for today’s worldwide network of 65 Davidoff Flagship Stores. Henri’s son, Zino Davidoff, learned the trade from the ground up. He resided for several years in Central and South America to deepen his knowledge. In 1930, he returned to Switzerland and thereafter successfully managed the business over four decades. Zino Davidoff transferred the family business to the Oettinger Group in 1970.

Davidoff appeals to connoisseurs all over the world who seek to embrace the art of living and pleasure. The premium brand Davidoff stands for a culture of conscious enjoyment and reflection in today’s hectic world. Davidoff learned over the years that time is the ultimate luxury. Zino’s pleasure in this was the starting point for the global brand of Davidoff, a brand that connects people all around the world. A brand that fills the unforgettable moments in life with the joy and pleasure of elegance and beauty – “Time Beautifully Filled.” davidoff.com. In 2011, the company launched the Davidoff Art Initiative, which has quickly become an influential platform to bring international attention to art and artists in the Caribbean and in particular the Dominican Republic.



Oettinger Davidoff AG – A Swiss Family Business Steeped in Tradition

With over 3’500 employees around the world, the CHF 1.2 billion Oettinger Davidoff AG traces its roots back to 1875 and remains family owned to this day. The Group operates two distinctly different businesses: one focused on consumer goods distribution in the Swiss market, and one dedicated to its core business, the producing, marketing, and retailing of premium branded cigars, tobacco products, and accessories. The premium-branded cigar business includes Davidoff, Camacho, Zino Platinum, AVO, Cusano, Griffin’s, Private Stock, Zino, and Winston Churchill Cigars. Oettinger Davidoff AG is anchored in a strong “crop-to-shop” philosophy, having pursued a vertical integration from its tobacco fields in the Dominican Republic and Honduras to its worldwide network of 65 Davidoff Flagship Stores. oettingerdavidoff.com

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