



ART INITIATIVE

## INAUGURAL DAVIDOFF ART WEEKEND IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

*Sees groundbreaking for new residency buildings at  
Altos de Chavón School of Design  
And Davidoff Art Dialogues in Santo Domingo  
February 28 - March 2, 2014*



The Davidoff Art Dialogue at Museo de Arte Moderno, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (left). Hans-Kristian Hoejsgaard, President and CEO of Oettinger Davidoff AG, and Stephen Kaplan, Secretary of Altos de Chavón Cultural Center Foundation (right). Davidoff Art Weekend 2014. Photo by Ivan A. Mendez.

**Basel, Switzerland, March 10, 2013** - On February 28 through March 2, 2014, the **Davidoff Art Initiative** hosted the inaugural **Davidoff Art Weekend** in collaboration with **Altos de Chavón School of Design** and **Casa de Campo** in the Dominican Republic. The culminating event of the weekend was the groundbreaking of the new artist studio facilities for the Davidoff Art Residency at Altos de Chavón School of Design, which will welcome its first five international artists in January 2015, thus helping further the ties between the local art community and the larger art world.

“The establishment of the international residency program at Altos de Chavón is the next significant step for the Davidoff Art Initiative,” said **Hans-Kristian Hoejsgaard, President and CEO of Oettinger Davidoff AG**. “For Oettinger Davidoff, our aim is to give back to the cultural community, where much of our production and so many of our employees are based. The inaugural Davidoff Art Weekend brought the arts community together to focus on a shared mission. We are delighted to be working with Altos de Chavón School of Design and Casa de Campo to help make our long-term mission a reality in the Dominican Republic.”

Among other events of the weekend were: the Davidoff Art Dialogue at the Museo de Arte Moderno in Santo Domingo; a private preview of the solo exhibition by Dominican artist Jorge Pineda (who will be participating in the Davidoff Art Residency at Künstlerhaus Bethanien Berlin, in April 2014); and cocktails at the Museo de Arte Moderno, as well as several museum and gallery visits (Centro de la Imagen, Bellas Artes, Casa de Chavón, Lucy Garcia Gallery and Lyle O. Reitzel Gallery). Guests, including Amanda Coulson, co-founder/executive director of VOLTA and director of the National Gallery of The Bahamas, Holly Bynoe, co-founder and editor of ARC Magazine, Annalee Davis, founding director of The Fresh Milk Art Platform in Barbados, and Irene Hofmann, director/chief curator of SITE Santa Fe and *SITElines*, were introduced to the arts community, galleries and artist studios in Santo Domingo before traveling to Casa de Campo and Altos de Chavón in La Romana, on the southern coast of the Dominican Republic. The program was aimed at continuing the dialogue to bring critical attention to the arts and artists of the Caribbean and Dominican Republic, and to celebrate the groundbreaking presence of the Davidoff Art Initiative in the region.

"We are very impressed with the vision of Hans-Kristian Hoejsgaard to expand Davidoff's involvement with the arts, and we are delighted that Altos de Chavón has been chosen as one of the initial locations for the Davidoff Art Residency," said **Dr. Claudio Silvestri, President and CEO of Premier Resorts & Hotels**. "We strongly believe in this wonderful program and we are confident that it will be a great success."

**The Davidoff Art 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. On Friday, February 28, the Museo de Arte Moderno in Santo Domingo hosted a dialogue, entitled "Opening a New Chapter for Artist Residencies at Altos de Chavón" and "Earning International Recognition for Art from the Caribbean." The panel included Hans-Kristian Hoejsgaard, Stephen Kaplan, Secretary of Altos de Chavón Cultural Center Foundation and Rector of the Altos de Chavón School of Design, Andras Szanto, Chief Consultant for the Davidoff Art Initiative, Amanda Coulson, artist Raquel Paiewonsky, Carlos Acero Ruiz, Director of Centro de la Imagen, Holly Bynoe, and Sara Hermann, curator and Davidoff Art Initiative Advisory Council member.

**The Davidoff Art Residency** is the cornerstone of the Davidoff Art Initiative and seeks to offer opportunities for the creative exchange between the Caribbean and Dominican Republic and the rest of the world. Beginning in January 2015, each year, the Davidoff Art Initiative will welcome five international artists to Altos de Chavón School of Design to be immersed in the culture of the Dominican Republic and explore the richness of the region for three months.

"The inaugural Davidoff Art Weekend was a great success," said **Stephen Kaplan, Secretary of Altos de Chavón Cultural Center Foundation and Rector of Altos de Chavón School of Design**. "We are grateful to Davidoff and to all those who participated and who are passionate about the importance of recognizing the arts in the Caribbean and the Dominican Republic. We look forward to the next annual Davidoff Art Weekend and welcoming international artists to Altos de Chavón 2015!"



Groundbreaking of Davidoff Art Residency at Altos de Chavón, La Romana, Dominican Republic. (left to right) A. Kopp, Davidoff Art Initiative, P. Szathmary, Oettinger Davidoff AG, D. Bluhdorn, Founder and President of Altos de Chavón Cultural Center Foundation, A. Despradel, architect, A. Szanto, Davidoff Art Initiative, HK Hoejsgaard, Oettinger Davidoff AG, S. Kaplan, Altos de Chavón Cultural Center Foundation, and C. Silvestri, Casa de Campo. Photo by Ivan A. Mendez.

## **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](http://altosdechavon.edu.do)

## **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.

At the core of the Art Initiative, Oettinger Davidoff aims to give back to cultural community of the Dominican Republic, where much of the company's production and 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: Davidoff Art Residency, Davidoff Art Dialogues, Davidoff Art Grants, and Davidoff Art Editions.

For more information, please visit: [davidoffartinitiative.com](http://davidoffartinitiative.com)

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A small exhibition of the Davidoff Art Initiative artists' works curated by Sara Hermann, is currently on view at the Museo de Arte Moderno in Santo Domingo through March 31, 2014.

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## **Media Contacts**

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