



**Davidoff Art Initiative Announces the Publication of
Sea Is History: Caribbean Experience in Contemporary Art
and Returns to Art Basel in Miami Beach
Presenting the 2016 Limited Art Edition by Olivia McGilchrist**

#DavidoffArts



Louis Henderson, video stills from *The Sea Is History*, 2016. HD video, 28mins

Basel, Switzerland, November 21, 2016 - The **Davidoff Art Initiative (DAI)** is pleased to announce the publication of *Sea Is History: Caribbean Experience in Contemporary Art*, the international residency network's second volume of art, essays, and interviews, which will be released during Art Basel in Miami Beach. The book captures the diversity of contemporary voices within the region that are supported by the Initiative and features a series of in-depth artist interviews and portfolios, as well as commentaries from leading art authorities offering insights into the Caribbean art scene.

Sea Is History furthers the Davidoff Art Initiative's efforts to promote greater cultural dialogue between the Caribbean and the rest of the world. Comprised of two sections — 'Connecting the Islands' and 'Caribbean Experience' — the 125-page volume documents the robust creative community within the Caribbean landscape, as well as the international artistic community participating in the Davidoff residency at **Altos de Chavón School of Design** in the Dominican Republic. This second volume expands upon the first, *Under The Sun: Caribbean Voices in Contemporary Art*, documenting the artists that have contributed to the DAI's efforts to strengthen and promote awareness of this vibrant art scene. The book will be available at Art Basel in Miami Beach and through the DAI website.

As an Associate Partner of **Art Basel in Miami Beach**, Davidoff will once again have a presence at the fair. The Davidoff VIP lounge will present the second **Davidoff Limited Art Edition**, by Jamaican-French new media artist **Olivia McGilchrist**, accompanied by an immersive virtual reality (VR) experience of her video work, *from many sides*. The earliest iteration of McGilchrist's

commissioned project, which explores an interconnectivity between blended cultures and the watery landscape, debuted at **Art Basel in Hong Kong** this past Spring. An expanded presentation of the work — including Oculus Rift headsets and a series of one-off duotone video still prints — premiered at Davidoff's VIP lounge at **Art Basel in Basel** in June. The complete *from many sides* experience, including a very limited selection of cigar boxes each uniquely crafted with a video still print, travels to Miami; juxtaposing it nearer the active and sometimes tumultuous waters from which McGilchrist drew reference, and affirming Davidoff's commitment to identifying and supporting meaningful creative discourse from the Caribbean.

About the Artist

Olivia McGilchrist (b. 1981, Kingston, Jamaica) explores translocation and issues of Caribbean cultural identity through her blended Jamaican-French heritage and by proxy of her alter-ego, *whitey*. Questioning the shifting categories to which she belongs — from the female body in a postmodern space to a visibly white postcolonial creole identity — while juxtaposing parallel realities through photographs, video installation, and virtual reality, McGilchrist remaps and reappropriates the tropical picturesque while deciphering her individual and a broader collective Caribbean identity. She received her M.A. in photography at the London College of Communication in 2010 and returned to Jamaica, lecturing in photography and new media at the Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts (Kingston) and exhibiting in consecutive biennials at the National Gallery of Jamaica. McGilchrist won the ARC Magazine New Media Prize at the 2013 Trinidad + Tobago Film Festival. She moved to Montréal in 2014 to study digital technologies in art and design, and she has exhibited recently at the National Gallery of the Bahamas (Nassau) and Haus der Kulturen der Welt (Berlin, 2014), as well as her residency at feminist artist-run new-media center Studio XX (Montréal). McGilchrist is the artist responsible for creating the second Limited Art Edition for Davidoff.

About the Davidoff Art Initiative

The Davidoff Art Initiative supports contemporary art and artists in the Caribbean, strengthens art organizations, and fosters cultural engagement between the Caribbean and the rest of the world. It brings opportunity and visibility to the art and culture of the wider Caribbean region, including the Dominican Republic, where much of Davidoff's production and many of the employees are based, and extending the company's long-standing commitment to artistry, craftsmanship, community and quality. The Davidoff Art Initiative's four global program areas are: Art Residency, Art Dialogues, Art Grants, and Art Editions. For more information, please visit davidoffartinitiative.com.

About Oettinger Davidoff AG

Oettinger Davidoff AG with sales of over CHF 600 million and 3,500 employees around the world, traces its roots back to 1875 and remains family-owned to this day with two distinctly different businesses: One that is focused on FMCG distribution in the Swiss market and the other is dedicated to the core business of producing, marketing and retailing premium-branded cigars, tobacco products and accessories. The premium-branded cigar business includes Davidoff, AVO, Camacho, Cusano, Griffin's, Private Stock, Zino and Zino Platinum. The Oettinger Davidoff AG business is anchored in a strong "crop-to-shop" philosophy, having pursued vertical integration from the tobacco fields in the Dominican Republic, Honduras and Nicaragua to the worldwide network of over 70 Davidoff Flagship Stores that complement a network of strong Appointed Merchants around the world.

About Art Basel

Founded in 1970 by gallerists from Basel, Art Basel today stages the world's premier art shows for Modern and contemporary art, sited in Basel, Miami Beach, and Hong Kong. Defined by its host city and region, each show is unique, as reflected in its participating galleries, the artworks presented, and the parallel programming produced in collaboration with local institutions for each edition.

In recent years, Art Basel's art-world engagement has expanded beyond art fairs. In 2014, Art Basel launched its Crowdfunding Initiative, in collaboration with Kickstarter, which has helped catalyzed much-needed support for outstanding non-commercial art projects worldwide and has helped pledge over \$1.2 million to creative projects all over the world. For Art Basel Cities, launched in 2016, Art Basel will work with select partner cities to develop vibrant and content-driven programs specific to

the individual city. Connecting them to the global art world through Art Basel's expertise and network, Art Basel Cities supports its partner cities in developing their unique cultural landscape. The first city Art Basel is partnering with for Art Basel Cities is Buenos Aires. For further information please visit artbasel.com. 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 singular exhibition sectors spotlight the latest developments in the visual arts, offering visitors new ideas, new inspiration and new contacts in the art world. UBS is Art Basel's global lead Partner, supporting all three shows in Basel, Miami Beach and Hong Kong. For more information, please visit: artbasel.com.

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Media Contacts

For further information, images, or to arrange an interview, members of the media may contact:

For US and Latin America:
Blue Medium, Inc.
Elisabeth Meddin or
Kat Mills
elisabeth@bluemedium.com
kat@bluemedium.com
+1-212-675-1800

For Europe and Asia:
SUTTON
Elena
Davidson
ellie@suttonpr.com
+44 (0)20 7183 3577

Sutton PR
Asia
Sybil Kot
sybil@suttonprasia.com

Oettinger
Davidoff AG
Albertine Kopp
Manager Davidoff Art
Initiative
media@davidoff.com
info@davidoffartinitiative.com
[om](http://www.davidoffartinitiative.com)
+41 61 279 3612