

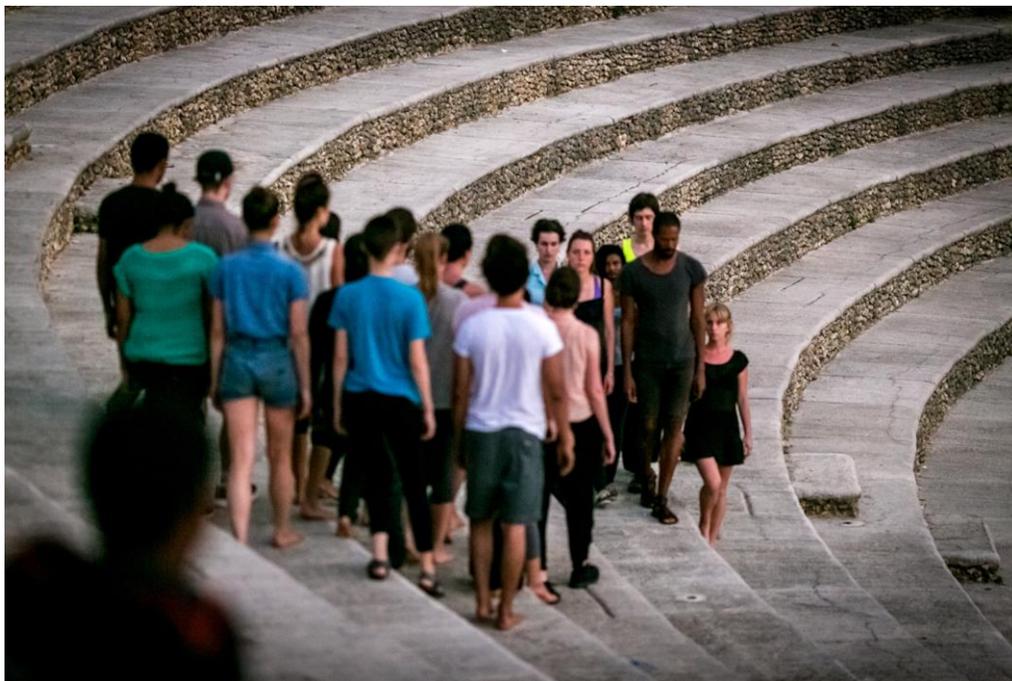


**The Davidoff Art Initiative Announces  
The Culmination of 2016 International Artist Jimmy Robert's  
Cultural Exchange Project *Transeúnte*  
At the Universität der Künste, Berlin**

**Preview Performance: Thursday, July 21 at 6:00pm  
On View: Friday, July 22 – Sunday, July 24 at 2pm, 3pm, 4pm, and 5pm**

**Universität der Künste Berlin  
Hardenbergstraße 33, 10623 Berlin**

**#DavidoffArts**



Transeúnte Performance 2016 Altos de Chavón La Romana, Dominican Republic

**Basel, Switzerland, July 18 – The Davidoff Art Initiative (DAI)** is pleased to announce the culmination of the *Transeúnte* project envisioned by artist **Jimmy Robert** as a part of his DAI residency in the Dominican Republic earlier this year, the first part of which took place when students from the **Universität der Künste (UdK)** in Berlin, Germany traveled to the Dominican Republic. Using the platform of performance as a means to explore cultural exchange, Robert has brought together art students from both countries to learn from one another as they produce performances in both Germany and the Dominican Republic. Through the support of a successful crowdfunding campaign, funds were raised for ten students

from **Altos de Chavón School of Design** in the Dominican Republic to travel to the UdK in Berlin to take part in a series of performances held during the **UdK RUNDGANG** (open studios) on **July 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016**.

For nearly two years, Robert has been working with a group of fifteen students from UdK to define what performance is and what it means to work collaboratively. Together they examined notions of documentation and subjectivity, as well as appropriation, masquerade, and gender. The students then developed performances around these themes, creating a space for open discourse as a way to evaluate the ideas they were exploring.

“The recent events in Europe have created a climate of fear and insecurity as regards migrants and with those movements of bodies we would like to show that we can learn a lot from each other and can try to stop thinking in terms of binaries such as the other and us,” according to Robert. “It’s not about us versus them, it’s about ‘we’; It’s about people relating to other people an establishing a dialogue and acknowledging presences. We are present in the space we are working in; we are relatable; we want to be touched and to touch, for we are here today.”

#### About the Artist

**Jimmy Robert** (b. 1975, Guadeloupe) is a graduate of Goldsmiths College in London and lives and works in Berlin. His videos, installations, and ephemeral collages draw on the theatrical language of choreography and contemporary dance, informed by thematic undercurrents of Conceptualism, Feminism and Post-Minimalist sculpture. *Vis-à-vis*, his debut U.S. solo institutional exhibition, was held at MCA Chicago in autumn 2012, and recent exhibitions and interventions include *Draw the Line*, The Power Plant (Toronto, 2013); the 8th Berlin Biennale and the 11th DAK'ART Biennale de Dakar (2014); *A Clean Line that Starts from the Shoulder*, Museum M, Leuven (Belgium, 2015); and *Descendances du nu*, Centre d'art contemporain – la synagogue de Delme (France, 2016).

#### 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.

#### Media contacts:

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