



**Announces New Artist Studios in Altos de Chavón, La Romana, Dominican Republic**

**Engel Leonardo as the Next Artist for the  
Davidoff Art Residency Program**

**And Tilting Axis as the Recipient of the New Davidoff Art Grant**

**New Artwork On View in the Davidoff Collectors Lounge by Artist Quisqueya Henríquez  
On View at Art Basel in Miami Beach**

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Davidoff International Art Residency Studios in Altos de Chavón

**Basel, Switzerland/Miami Beach, FL, USA, December 4, 2015** – Oettinger Davidoff AG, the worldwide leading manufacturer of premium cigars, headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, presented the new artist studios for the Davidoff International Art Residency and announced during Art Basel in Miami Beach the next Dominican artist to take part in the Art Residency and a new recipient of Art Grants. These programs are part of the Davidoff Art Initiative, which was launched in 2012 with the mission of supporting contemporary art and artists in the Caribbean and Dominican Republic and fostering cultural engagement between the Caribbean region and the rest of the world.

#### **New Artist Studios for the Davidoff International Art Residency**

In collaboration with **Altos de Chavón School of Design**, the International Art Residency will host the first five international artists at the newly built residency facilities in La Romana, Dominican Republic, from **January 18 to April 5, 2015**. They will work in new, custom-built artist studios designed by **Adolfo Despradel, Director of Planning and Design, Costasur Dominicana S.A.** at Altos de Chavón School of Design, the country's leading institution for art and design education. The maquette of the new studios is on view in the Davidoff Cigars Lounge in the Botanical Garden at Art Basel in Miami Beach.

Nominated by a global network of art professionals and selected by the International Advisory Council, the five artists in the inaugural group represent a diverse range of artistic practices and backgrounds. They are deeply interested in engaging with the social and cultural fabric of the Dominican Republic.



The five artists are: **Alia Farid** (b. 1985, Kuwait/Puerto Rico), **Nuria Montiel** (b. 1982, Mexico City, Mexico), **Cathleen Mooses** (b. 1982, Chicago, IL), **Mathilde Rosier** (b. 1973, Paris, France), and **Soledad Salamé** (b. 1954, Santiago, Chile). In addition to pursuing their own work during the residency, the artists will have opportunities to engage with the Dominican cultural community, as well as with students and residents of Altos de Chavón and the neighboring region.

#### **Davidoff Art Residency in Beijing, China**

**Engel Leonardo** will be the sixth artist to take part in the Art Residency. He will be in residence at the **Red Gate Gallery Residency in Beijing, China**, from **May 1 through June 30, 2015**.



Engel Leonardo, *Antillas*, 2013. Courtesy of the artist.

Engel Leonardo (b. 1977, Baní, Dominican Republic) works across sculpture, installation, site-specific interventions and readymades to address issues related to climate change, nature, traditional crafts, architecture and popular culture of the Caribbean. His work focuses on objects, their creation and production processes, as well as their implicit psychological and sociological discourse.

“This residency program will allow me to do research about the production of objects in China, from traditional craft practices to industrial objects of mass production,” said artist **Engel Leonardo**. “Industrialization, globalization and the integration of international trends have significantly impacted the local lifestyle and traditions of the Caribbean, and they have altered the physical environment as well. My research will be documented through drawings and photographs that will create a taxonomy of Chinese objects to be compared with the imported objects typically used in the Caribbean.”

As one of the four global programs of the Davidoff Art Initiative to support contemporary art and artists in the Caribbean, the Art Residency program provides Dominican and Caribbean artists opportunities to participate in leading residency programs worldwide. Through this program, emerging and mid-career Dominican and Caribbean artists develop their skills, make connections within global artistic networks, earn exposure for their work, and share their expertise with others in the visited region.

#### **Davidoff Art Grants**

Davidoff Art Initiative has selected **Tilting Axis** as the recipient of the next grant. Tilting Axis is a regional meeting based in Barbados aimed to promote the exchange of artists and professionals working within the visual arts communities across the wider Caribbean region. **Tilting Axis: *Within and Beyond the Caribbean – Shifting Models of Sustainability and Connectivity*** will take place from **February 24-25, 2015** in Barbados.



The Davidoff Art Initiative assists local cultural organizations and institutions in the Dominican Republic and the Caribbean region with small and medium-sized awards. A limited number of grants are provided each year to meet the specific needs of organizations working to promote visual art in the region.

### **Davidoff Limited Art Edition 2014 by Quisqueya Henríquez**

The first Limited Art Edition cigar boxes were launched during Art Basel in Hong Kong in May 2014. These editions will be available in Davidoff's Lounge inside the Collectors Lounge at Art Basel in Miami Beach.



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

Featuring original commissioned artwork by the important acclaimed Caribbean artist, **Quisqueya Henríquez**, two Limited Edition cigar cases, and stocked with custom-made cigars blended exclusively for the edition. In addition, the artist was invited to create a limited run of fifty Collectors Edition, which include the special edition of cigar case, as well as an original artist's print from the series of images developed for the project. Part of all sales generated by the Limited Editions are dedicated to supporting the Davidoff Art Initiative

### **Davidoff at Art Basel**

As Associate Partner of Art Basel for the third consecutive year, Davidoff Cigars operates a VIP hospitality lounge in the Collectors Lounge. The Davidoff Lounge features a walk-in humidor and a master cigar roller from the Dominican Republic, who will demonstrate the art of blending and the art of rolling a Davidoff cigar. Davidoff will present the last masterpieces of colored marqueterie de verre crafted by renowned artist Daniel Clément during Art Basel in Miami Beach December 2014. An additional outdoor Cigar Lounge is situated in the Miami Beach Botanical Garden, offering fair VIPs a relaxed venue for discussion, reflection, and enjoyment of a fine cigar. Part of the sales generated are dedicated to supporting the Davidoff Art Initiative.

Furthermore, building on the success of the special-edition collaboration, several new works by Quisqueya Henríquez will be on view in the Davidoff Collectors Lounge at Art Basel in Miami Beach, from December 3-7, 2014. The artist presents an intervention in space that includes the design of the walls as an inseparable part of the artwork on view. Henríquez explores stereotypes related to race, gender and cultural conventions. Humor, parody, deconstruction and appropriation are some of the approaches that she has used to explore different media including collage, video, photography, installation and sound.

Curator Amy Rosenblum-Martin said, "Although Quisqueya has been described as neo-Dada, her true passion lies in how a process or activity can turn into art and as public participation gives meaning to that work, making the cliché one new paradigm."

### **Artist Talks at Art Basel in Miami Beach**

During Art Basel in Miami Beach, the Davidoff Art Initiative will host a series of talks with several artists who have been involved in the Art Initiative to date, including **Polibio Diaz**, **Quisqueya Henríquez**, **Jorge Pindea** and **Mónica Ferreras De la Maza**, in Davidoff's Lounge in the Collectors Lounge or the Davidoff Lounge in the Miami Beach Botanical Garden, from **December 5-7 at 2:00 pm daily**. This will be an opportunity for VIP visitors to meet and engage with some of the leading artists of the Caribbean working today. For more information, please visit the Davidoff Welcome Desk at Art Basel in Miami Beach.



## **Notes to Editors**

### **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, Davidoff aims to engage closely with the arts and culture of the Dominican Republic, where much of its 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: Art Residency, Art Dialogues, Art Grants, and Art Editions. For more information, please visit: [davidoffartinitiative.com](http://davidoffartinitiative.com)

### **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 globe, 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. Please visit [artbasel.com](http://artbasel.com) for additional information.

### **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 70 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](http://davidoff.com).

### **About Oettinger Davidoff AG**

The CHF 1.2 billion Oettinger Davidoff AG with over 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 one dedicated to the core business of producing, marketing and retailing premium branded cigars, tobacco products and accessories. The premium branded cigar business include Davidoff, AVO, Camacho, Cusano, Griffin's, Private Stock, Zino, Zino Platinum and Winston Churchill Cigars. The Oettinger Davidoff AG is anchored in a strong "crop-to-shop" philosophy, having pursued a vertical integration from the tobacco fields in the Dominican Republic, Honduras and Nicaragua to the worldwide network of almost 70 Davidoff Flagship Stores.

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