



Davidoff Art Initiative Expands
Global Residency Program
with New Artist Residencies at
Escuela FLORA in Bogotá, Colombia and
Residency Unlimited in Brooklyn, New York

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Basel, Switzerland, December 2, 2015 – The Davidoff Art Initiative (DAI) is pleased to announce the **addition of two new residency programs** – one in **Bogotá, Colombia** with **Escuela FLORA** and a new program in **Brooklyn, New York** with **Residency Unlimited**. These additions are a major and defining step for the Davidoff Art Initiative, which has supported Dominican and Caribbean artists since 2013 by providing opportunities for them to take part in residency programs in Basel, Berlin and Beijing.

“The Davidoff Art Initiative has always sought to make a significant contribution in the sphere of art and culture. The residency program is a core part of our programming and key in forging creative relationships between the Caribbean and the Dominican Republic and the rest of the world,” said Hans-Kristian Hoejsgaard, CEO Oettinger Davidoff AG. “We are delighted to expand our global residency program and particularly excited to establish a program that furthers the dialogue between Latin American and Caribbean creative communities.”

The Escuela FLORA Residency in Bogotá is the fifth international partnership to be announced by the Davidoff Art Initiative and will take place annually from June 1 to August 21 starting in 2016. The Residency will provide participating artists access to cutting-edge facilities and the opportunity to build on their practice while living and working in Bogotá. The program will also include workshops, site visits and seminars center as well as studio visits conducted for each participant by a roster of esteemed international and local art world professionals.

In tandem with the launch of the Bogotá Residency, The DAI residency program in New York will be held for the first time at Residency Unlimited in Brooklyn from September 1 to November 30, 2016. The program at Residency Unlimited will continue to provide emerging and mid-career Dominican and Caribbean artists opportunities to develop their skills through privileged access to both art venues and the expertise of practicing art professionals while experiencing life in one of largest art capitals of the world.

The Davidoff Art Initiative will also be welcoming a new round of international artists – along with two curators – to participate in the 2016 residency at the newly opened studios at Altos de Chavón, in the Dominican Republic. Residents will continue to have the chance to engage with the local arts community in the Dominican Republic and with the students and esteemed faculty at Altos de Chavón.

About Escuela FLORA

Escuela FLORA is a space for contemporary art in Bogotá, Colombia, that specializes establishing links with the rest of the country and abroad through international residencies, commissioned projects, and educational activity. A point of reference for the local scene in Bogotá, Flora is settled in two main places: Flora's



House in Bogotá, where the library, art studios and project's room are located, and Casa Deuxsoleils in Honda town, where residences take place.

About Residency Unlimited

Located in Brooklyn, NY, Residency Unlimited (RU) supports the creation, presentation and dissemination of contemporary art through its unique residency program and year-round public programs, facilitated through strategic partnerships with collaborating institutions. Residents benefit from a diverse network of partners, which allows for flexibility, customization and access to a wide range of services and resources including but not limited to studio/workspaces.

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.

About Oettinger Davidoff AG

The CHF 1.23 billion Oettinger Davidoff AG, with over 3,600 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 includes Davidoff, AVO, Camacho, Cusano, Griffin's, Private Stock, Zino and Zino Platinum. 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 more than 70 Davidoff Flagship Stores.

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