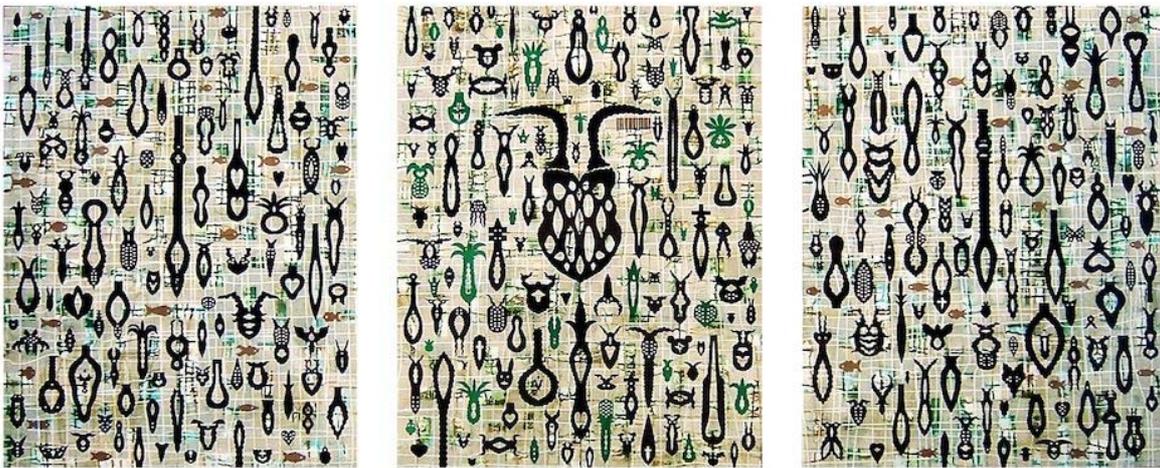




Davidoff Art Initiative in Asia

Pascal Meccariello is the Third Dominican Artist to Take Part in the Davidoff
Art Residency
Red Gate Gallery, Beijing, China
May 1– June 30, 2014

Davidoff Art Initiative to Host Davidoff Art Dialogue
“Art Collecting in China”
in Collaboration with Beijing’s Ullens Center for Contemporary Art
May 10, 2014, 3pm
Open to the Public



Pascal Meccariello, *Voracious Aquarium*, 2009. Collage and mixed media, Courtesy of the artist.

Basel, Switzerland, April 25, 2014 – The Davidoff Art Initiative, in partnership with Red Gate Residency, Beijing is pleased to welcome the first Dominican artist to travel to China to take part in the Davidoff Art Residency. **Pascal Meccariello** will take up his residency at Red Gate Gallery in Beijing from May 1 to June 30, 2014. The Davidoff Art Initiative will welcome visitors to a private studio visit on May 9, 2014 to coincide with the Davidoff Art Afternoon at **Beijing’s Ullens Center for Contemporary Art** on May 10, 2014.

“We are very pleased to welcome the third artist to participate in the Davidoff Art Residency program, and to do so in Beijing, a city that is bursting with creative vitality these days,” said **Hans-Kristian Hoejsgaard, Chief Executive Officer Oettinger Davidoff AG**. “Following residencies in New York and Berlin, we are delighted to extend our arts patronage into Asia by partnering with Red Gate Gallery, which has been at the forefront of Chinese contemporary art for the past 22 years”.

Self-trained as an artist, Meccariello originally studied theatre, working as an actor and on set productions, before dedicating his career to the visual arts, taking up

courses in ceramics, printmaking, and performance. The artist is a member of the Quintapata group, founded in 2009 in the Dominican Republic.

Meccariello commented, “I have always been fascinated by Chinese culture and artistic expression and so am thrilled to be offered the opportunity to live and work in Beijing. I’m looking forward to working with emblematic materials of Chinese culture, such as traditional papers, graphic characters, pictures and patterns, and exploring how these can be integrated into my practice. I hope to create a work that reflects the significance of my relationship with the environment that welcomes me.”

The Art Davidoff Residency program provides Dominican and Caribbean artists opportunities to participate in leading residency programs worldwide. The Davidoff Art Residency seeks to help 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. Red Gate Residency, Beijing is the third international residency program to partner with the Davidoff Art Initiative in hosting Caribbean artists. The International Studio & Curatorial Program (ISCP) in New York City hosted Mónica Ferreras De la Maza in Autumn 2013, while Künstlerhaus Bethanien in Berlin is hosting Dominican artist Jorge Pineda from April through June 2014.

The Davidoff Art Initiative will announce the next artist to visit ISCP in New York this summer. Two additional residency partnerships for Caribbean artists are planned, one in Europe and one in Latin America. In addition, Davidoff will inaugurate a residency for international artists in the Dominican Republic in early 2015.

Davidoff Art Afternoon at Ullens Center for Contemporary Art in Beijing

On May 10, 2014, the Davidoff Art Initiative and the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, will welcome artists, collectors, museum and gallery professionals, and art enthusiasts to UCCA for the first-ever Davidoff Art Afternoon. The event will feature two Davidoff Art Dialogues, part of a series of talks in locations worldwide for the benefit of art experts and enthusiasts.

The first of the two dialogues will take place between **András Szántó**, the New York-based Chief Consultant to the Davidoff Art Initiative and a member of Davidoff’s Art Advisory Council, **Pascal Meccariello**, the Davidoff artist in residence at Red Gate Gallery Residency, **Emma Karasz**, program coordinator at the Red Gate Gallery Residency, and **Michael Downs**, a former resident and former Head of Graduate Studies at the National Art School in Sydney.

The artist talk will be followed by a discussion titled “Collector as Patron,” moderated by **UCCA Director Philip Tinari**. Speakers will include: **Sean Lu**, Co-Founder of the Sifang Art Museum in Nanjing, which opened in November 2013 showcasing work by leading Chinese and international artists; **Qiao Zhibing**, one of China’s best known art collectors, who is currently constructing the Oil Tank Contemporary Art Center on Shanghai’s West Bund, the city’s newest arts district; **Wan Jie**, Founder, Chairman and President of Artron Art Group, the leading printer and provider of art-related data and analytics of China, who is also a member of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference National Committee, and

the Founder and Director of the Forbidden City Cultural Heritage Conservation Foundation.

Philip Tinari said, "It's a rare and wonderful thing to get Chinese art collectors together for candid conversations about the issues facing the field as they see them, and we hope the dialogues we have produced will have a wider resonance for people interested in the situation here."

The Davidoff Art Dialogue at the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art in Beijing is the second installment of the two-part series of Dialogues focusing on Chinese collectors and emerging trends in collecting in China. The first session took place at Duddell's in Hong Kong in September 2013, with the participation of the leading Chinese art collectors Thomas Shao, She Yong and Yan Bing.

About the Davidoff Art Dialogues

Davidoff Art Dialogues encourage an open exchange of information and ideas among artists, collectors, professionals, and newcomers to the world of art. From the current landscape in Caribbean or Latin American art, to the evolution of art markets in various countries, to art collecting and investing, these events address timely questions in contemporary art. Where possible, the dialogues are organized in collaboration with recognized museum and cultural institutions worldwide with active links to the art community and the general public in their respective regions. Future occasions will take place in Davidoff's own facilities, including the company's lounges and stores, which are located in major cities around the world. Transcripts of all Davidoff Art Dialogues are available online following the event.

About Pascal Meccariello

Pascal Meccariello (b. 1968, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic) is a multidisciplinary artist working in installation, drawing, ceramic, video art, photography and performance. He has exhibited his work in numerous solo and group exhibitions inside the Dominican Republic and abroad, and is the recipient of multiple awards and honours, including a Fulbright Scholarship, a UNESCO-Aschberg Bursary for Artists, and Grand Prize at the XV National Biennial of Visual Arts in Santo Domingo. Meccariello's work focuses on deconstructing abstract concepts such as freedom and justice in contemporary society.

About Red Gate Gallery

Red Gate Gallery was founded in 1991 by Australian, Brian Wallace, who first traveled to China in 1984. He returned staying to study and to work then entered the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing to study Chinese Art History. Through 1988-9 he organized exhibitions with friends at the Ancient Observatory. The contemporary art scene was in its infancy. Wallace established Red Gate Gallery in the Ming Dynasty Watchtower at Dongbianmen. The inaugural exhibition of July 1991 showcased the works of Zhang Yajie, Dagong, Wang Lifeng and Wang Luyan. In 2011 Red Gate Gallery celebrated it's 20th year with an exhibition in Beijing, Shanghai and a tour of Australia in 2012.

About Beijing's Ullens Center for Contemporary Art

The Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA) is an independent, not-for-profit art center serving a global Beijing public. Located at the heart of Beijing's 798 Art District, it was founded by the Belgian collectors Guy and Myriam Ullens and opened in November 2007. Through a diverse array of exhibitions with artists

Chinese and international, established and emerging, as well as a wide range of public programs, UCCA aims to promote the continued development of the Chinese art scene, foster international exchange, and showcase the latest in art and culture to hundreds of thousands of visitors each year.

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 give back to the Dominican Republic cultural community, where much of its production and so many of its employees are based, bring opportunity and visibility to the art and culture of the Caribbean region, extending the company's long-standing commitment to artistry, craftsmanship, community and quality.

The Davidoff Art Initiative's four global program areas are: the Davidoff Art Residency, Davidoff Art Dialogues, Davidoff Art Grants, and Davidoff Art Editions.

For more information, please visit: www.davidoffartinitiative.com

###

Media Contacts

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

Sutton PR
Elena Davidson
ellie@suttonpr.com
+44 (0)20 7183 3577

Blue Medium, Inc.
Rachel Patall-David
rachel@bluemedium.com
+1-212-675-1800

Oettinger Davidoff AG
Paloma Szathmary
SVP Corporate Communications, or
Albertine Kopp
Manager Davidoff Art Initiative
media@davidoff.com
info@davidoffartinitiative.com
+41-61-279-36-12