



**Davidoff Art Initiative's Inaugural Dialogue in Hong Kong
"Art Collecting in China"**

*In collaboration with Beijing's Ullens Center for Contemporary Art
Attended by Artists, Collectors, and Museum and Gallery Professionals.
Friday, September 27, 2013*



Yang Bin, Thomas Shao, She Yong and Philip Tinari. Davidoff Art Initiative, 2013.

Basel, October 2, 2013 – A year after its launch, the **Davidoff Art Initiative** is pleased to announce that it has hosted its first **Davidoff Art Dialogue**, “**Art Collecting in China**,” on **September 27, 2013**, at **Duddell's in Hong Kong** in collaboration with **Beijing's Ullens Center for Contemporary Art**. Moderated by Philip Tinari, the UCCA's Beijing-based director and an internationally recognized expert on Asian art and art markets, the panel included leading Chinese art collectors Thomas Shao, Guangzhou-based Chairman of Modern Media Group, She Yong, Chengdu-based property and finance entrepreneur whose company Tomorrow Culture was behind the recent Chinese presentation at the Venice Biennale, and Yang Bin, Beijing-based Chairman of automobile distributor Da Shi Hang Auto Inc. and prominent voice on art collecting in China. Artists, collectors, museum and gallery professionals, and art enthusiasts were among the attendees.

“We were delighted to host the inaugural Davidoff Art Dialogue in Hong Kong with Beijing's Ullens Center for Contemporary Art,” said Hans-Kristian Hoejsgaard, President & CEO of Oettinger Davidoff AG. “The Davidoff Art Dialogue is one of the four key areas of the Davidoff Art Initiative, and we see it as an important platform for facilitating an exchange of ideas and opinions about the world of art on a global scale. This inaugural conversation was a great success and we look forward to future collaborations with such renowned institutions.”

The inaugural Dialogue offered the assembled audience in-person access to renowned collectors and other key figures in the Chinese and the international art scene, to explore different facets of art collecting. “This first conversation was an opportunity to put three very different Chinese collectors together before the public, and to explore the questions facing them, and by extension, the entire Chinese art world, in a relaxed and intimate setting. For the UCCA, this series offers a way to expand our mission of driving the public conversation around contemporary art in China,” said Ullens Center Director Philip Tinari.

The session was the first in a two-part series of Dialogues focusing on Chinese collectors, emerging trends in collecting, and the evolving dynamics of the art market in China. The second event, continuing the collaboration with the Ullens Center, will take place in spring 2014 in Beijing, and it will be open to the general public.

The 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 museums and cultural institutions worldwide with active links to the art community and the general public in their respective regions. Other 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.

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 cultural community of the Dominican Republic, where much of the company's 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: Davidoff Art Residency, Davidoff Art Dialogues, Davidoff Art Grants, and Davidoff Art Editions.

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

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