



Davidoff Art Initiative Announces First Dominican Artist to Take Part in the Davidoff Art Residency Program

**Mónica Ferreras de la Maza In Residence at International Studio & Curatorial Program (ISCP)
In New York City, September 1 – November 30, 2013**



Mónica Ferreras de la Maza, *Alegria* (2012).

Basel, Switzerland, Updated October 7, 2013 – The **Davidoff Art Initiative**, in partnership with the **International Studio & Curatorial Program (ISCP)** in New York City, is pleased to announce Dominican artist **Mónica Ferreras de la Maza** as the first artist to take part in the international **Davidoff Art Residency**, which provides Dominican and Caribbean artists the opportunity to participate in leading residency programs worldwide. Ferreras de la Maza will take up her residency at ISCP from **September 1 through November 30, 2013** and she will participate in the ISCP open studio visit in November.

The Davidoff Art Residency seeks to help emerging and mid-career Dominican and Caribbean artists develop their skills, make new connections within global artistic networks, earn exposure for their work, and share their expertise with others. “The Davidoff Art Residency serves as a conduit for professional mobility, cultural immersion, and creative exchange, to benefit and bring more visibility to contemporary artists in the Caribbean regions,” said Hans-Kristian Hoejsgaard, President & CEO of Oettinger Davidoff AG.

“We are very pleased to welcome the first artist to participate in the Davidoff Art Residency program,” said András Szántó, the New York-based Chief Consultant to the Davidoff Art Initiative’s Art Advisory Council. “The Residency Program is the centerpiece of the Davidoff Art Initiative. Since the launch of the Davidoff Art Initiative, in 2012, we have been working toward this moment, and we could not be more pleased to partner with ISCP to give Mónica this opportunity to work in their extraordinary space and community this fall.”

Each year, approximately five artists will be offered the opportunity to participate in selected leading international artist residency programs. Davidoff has announced three international partners residencies to date, in addition to Ferreras de la Maza’s residency at ISCP: **Künstlerhaus Bethanien Berlin, Germany**, from **April 1 through June 22, 2014**, with **Jorge Pineda**; and **Red Gate Gallery Residency in Beijing, China**, from **May through June 2014**, with the artist to be announced in late 2013.

Looking ahead, the Davidoff Art Residency will also offer artists from outside the Caribbean region the opportunity to participate in a residency program for international artists in the Dominican Republic. The Davidoff Art

Residency is in the planning stages with **The Altos de Chavón School of Design, in La Romana**, to finalize collaboration for the residency for international artists. The residency would accept its first visiting artists **January 2015 through March 2015**. A limited number of positions reserved for curators and writers working on projects of relevance to Caribbean artists. Details of the Caribbean residency program will be announced later this year.

About Mónica Ferreras de la Maza

Based in the Dominican Republic, **Mónica Ferreras de la Maza** (b. 1965, Dominican Republic) has worked for 20 years as a visual artist across a range of media including painting, drawing, installation and video art. Her work focuses on the contemporary urban culture of the Dominican Republic and the youth of marginalized neighborhoods in Santo Domingo. Manifested in her art is the artist's exploration of the psychological and sociological perspectives on the state of her surroundings, raising questions about social class, the influence of tradition and consumerism on local and, ultimately, universal levels.

Mónica Ferreras de la Maza has presented 12 solo exhibitions in galleries and cultural centers in the Dominican Republic and in the United States. Group shows across the United States, Europe, Latin and South America include: *Inside and Out: Recent Trends in the Arts of the Dominican Republic*, BID Cultural Center, Washington, DC, USA; *Entre-Veus*, Foundation Clement, Martinica; *Latitudes – Exposition D' Art Contemporain*, Centro ITAU Cultural, Sao Paulo, Brasil; *Island Nation*, Rhode Island School of Design Museum, Providence, RI, USA; *VideoAkt*, GlogauAIR Art Center, Berlin, Germany; Cambridge Multicultural Center, Cambridge, MA, USA; *ETTER COLUMBUS.COM*, Arte Contemporáneo de Haití y Rep. Com; Kunstnernes Hus, Oslo; *Politica de la diferencia: Arte Ibero-Americano de fin de Siglo*, Centro de convenciones Pernabumco, Recife, Brasil; and Museo de arte Latinoamericano de Buenos Aires, Argentina.

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

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Media Contacts

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

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

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