

Davidoff Art Initiative to welcome first Art Residency artists in January 2015

by Melody Ng

Source: ©The Moodie Report

18 June 2014

During Art Basel this week, Davidoff will host a series of talks with several artists who have been involved in the Davidoff Art Initiative to date, including Quisqueya Henríquez, Jorge Pineda and Mónica Ferreras De la Maza.

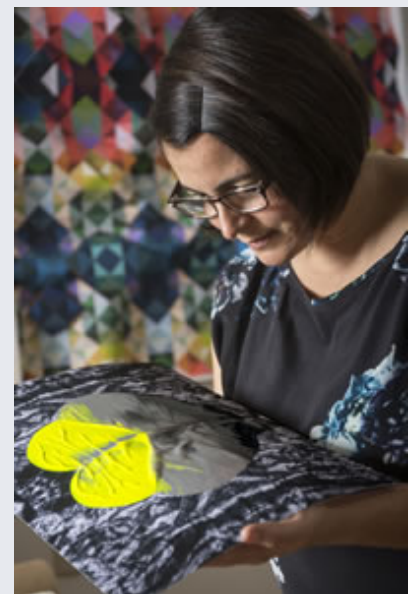
Launched in 2012, the Davidoff Art Initiative aims to support contemporary art and artists in the Caribbean, in particular in the Dominican Republic, and to foster cultural engagement between the Caribbean and the rest of the world. The Art Initiative is motivated by a commitment to bring much-needed exposure and resources to the cultural community of the region where many employees and much of the production of Oettinger Davidoff are located.

The talks will take place in Davidoff's Lounge in the Collectors Lounge from 18 to 21 June, from 3.30pm to 4pm daily.

"This will be a welcome opportunity for VIP visitors to the show to meet and interact directly with some of the leading artists of the Caribbean working today," the company said.

Davidoff has also announced several updates about the Art Initiative's current and upcoming programming. The Davidoff Art Initiative is in the final stages of completing the centrepiece of its global Art Residency programme: a new annual residency for international artists in the Dominican Republic.

In addition, the Davidoff Art Initiative in May 2014 unveiled



Quisqueya Henríquez will

the first-ever Davidoff Limited Art Edition at Art Basel in Hong Kong. Another instalment in the Davidoff Art Dialogue series is also planned, on 19 July in Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA, as part of the opening weekend of SITE Santa Fe's new biennial exhibition series, SITElines.

meet and interact with
Davidoff's VIP visitors at Art
Basel

Davidoff International Art Residency to open in the Dominican Republic

In January 2015, the Davidoff International Art Residency will welcome its first five international artists to new facilities at Altos de Chavón School of Design in La Romana. The residency will open with five custom-built artist studios designed by Costasur Dominicana SA Director of Planning and Design Adolfo Despradel (formerly an architectural designer at David Chipperfield Architects, London) at the Altos de Chavón School of Design in La Romana, Dominican Republic.

In collaboration with Altos de Chavón, hailed as the country's leading institution for art and design education, the Davidoff International Art Residency will host five selected emerging to mid-career artists from around the world each year, for a period of ten weeks. One of the positions may be filled by an international curator or art writer researching Caribbean art.



The Altos de Chavón School of Design in La Romana, Dominican Republic, will host the Davidoff International Art Residency in January 2015

During the residency, the invited residents will have an opportunity to engage with the Dominican cultural community, as well as with students and residents in Altos de Chavón and neighbouring areas.

The selection process for the five artists is by invitation only, facilitated with a global network of art experts who are serving as nominators to the residency programme. The nominators for 2015 are: Aaron Cézár, founding director of Delfina Foundation in London; Amanda Coulson, co-founder/executive director of VOLTA and director of the National Gallery of The Bahamas; Charles Desmarais, president of the San Francisco Art Institute; Mareike Dittmer, co-publisher of Frieze d/e Magazine and publishing consultant of Frieze Magazine; Pablo Helguera, director of adult and academic programs in the Department of Education at the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Irene Hofmann, the Phillips Director and Chief Curator of SITE Santa Fe; and, Philip Tinari, director of the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art in Beijing.

The five selected international artists will be announced in the fall of 2014. Final decisions will be made in September 2014 by Davidoff's International Advisory Council, which includes Rocío Aranda-Alvarado, Dominique Bluhdorn, Sara Hermann, Andras Szántó, Pablo León de la Barra and Hans-Kristian Hoejsgaard.



An artist's impression of the custom-built artist studios for the Art Residency programme, designed by Costasur Dominicana SA Director of Planning and Design Adolfo Despradel

"The arrival of international artists in the Dominican Republic will elevate the Davidoff Art Residency programme to its full potential," said Oettinger Davidoff AG CEO and Member of the Board Hans-Kristian Hoejsgaard.

"Now we will witness both sides of this international exchange – with Caribbean artists

travelling the world, and with artists from outside the region coming to the Caribbean. We believe these interactions will accelerate the recognition that art and artists in this region so richly deserve. And we could not be more delighted to build this residency in collaboration with the country's leading art school."

Soon after the arrival of the international artists, in late January 2015, the second annual Davidoff Art Weekend will be held in collaboration with Altos de Chavón School of Design and Casa de Campo in the Dominican Republic.

"With the momentous groundbreaking for the five new Davidoff Art Initiative artist's studios at Altos de Chavón comes the promise of a truly exciting collaboration," said Stephen Kaplan, Secretary of Altos de Chavón Cultural Center Foundation and Rector of Altos de Chavón School of Design. "We at Altos de Chavón eagerly await the selection of the guest artists who will be the first Davidoff chavoneros in January 2015."



The groundbreaking ceremony for the Davidoff Art Initiative artist's studios at Altos de Chavón

First Davidoff Limited Art Edition

The first Davidoff Limited Art Edition cigar boxes were [unveiled during Art Basel Hong Kong](#), in May 2014, and will be available in Davidoff's Lounge inside the Collectors Lounge at Art Basel.

Featuring original commissioned artwork by Caribbean artist Quisqueya Henríquez, two limited-edition cigar boxes were manufactured in a quantity of 3,000 each, and stocked with custom-made cigars developed exclusively for the Limited Art Edition. Part of all sales generated by the limited editions are dedicated to supporting the Davidoff Art Initiative.

Quisqueya Henríquez was, in addition, invited to create a highly limited run of 50 Collectors Edition boxed sets, which include the special edition box of cigars, as well as an original artist's print from the series of images developed for the project. Each artwork is one-of-a-kind and can be selected by the customer at the time of purchase.

Inspired by a series of visits to Dominican tobacco fields at the artist's own request, the compositions created by Henríquez for the new editions call to mind the intricate handcraft of cigar making and evoke the multiple phases involved in the tradition of cigar manufacture. The richly coloured images obtained from the layering of multiple photographs of tobacco leaves create a composition that, while abstract, hints at the source materials involved in their creation.



The Limited Art Edition cigar boxes featuring original artwork by Quisqueya Henríquez

Davidoff Art Dialogue at SITE Santa Fe

Later this summer, the Davidoff Art Initiative will host a Davidoff Art Dialogue entitled “‘Confronting Paradise: Land and Landscape in the Caribbean’, as part of the opening weekend programming of SITE Santa Fe’s SITElines.2014: Unsettled Landscapes. Unsettled Landscapes is the first edition of SITE’s new biennial series with a focus on contemporary art and cultural production of the Americas.

The discussion will be held on Saturday, 19 July from 11am to 12.30pm at the Santa Fe Performing Arts’ Armory for the Arts Theater, in Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA. Moderated by András Szántó, Chief Consultant to the Davidoff Art Initiative and member of Davidoff’s Art

Advisory Committee, the participants will include artist Blue Curry, curatorial advisor Christopher Cozier, artist Deborah Jack, curator and Davidoff Art Initiative Advisory Committee member Sara Hermann, and artist Glenda Leon.

The Dialogues are part of the global programming of the Davidoff Art Initiative to encourage an open exchange of information and ideas among artists, collectors, professionals, and newcomers to the world of art.

“The Davidoff Art Initiative is a natural partner for SITElines, particularly during the first edition of SITE’s reimagined biennial series, which has placed a special emphasis on Latin America and the Caribbean” said Szántó. “Caribbean art needs to gain currency and familiarity in the global art world, and here and elsewhere, this kind of familiarity is gained, in part, through informed dialogue. It’s an exciting time for the region, but also a challenging one, so there is much to talk about.”