As an associate partner of the event, it's no surprise that Davidoff was highly visible at Art Basel in Miami, which drew upwards of 73,000 art lovers. The Davidoff area of the Collector’s lounge was comfortable and relaxing. While a room filled with cigars was delightfully apparent through glass walls, the focus was definitely on art. The front counter held the limited-edition cigar boxes commissioned by Davidoff and created by acclaimed Caribbean artist Quisqueya Henriquez, along with one of the 50 original works, again created by Henriquez and available with one of the cigar boxes. Within the glass walls surrounding the cigars was a humidor created by French artist Daniel Clément. The incredibly beautiful humidor was created with hundreds of hand-cut shards of glass.

The Davidoff Art Initiative

While being an associate partner of the largest art event in the world is a generous way to support the
art community, Davidoff and the company’s CEO Hans-Kristian Hoejsgaard felt more was needed, and so they created the Davidoff Art Initiative. This initiative has many facets, but all focused in one way or another on the Caribbean. The reason for this is simple: nearly half of Davidoff’s employees live in the Caribbean, and the Dominican Republic in particular, and the company wants to give back. In addition, though the Caribbean art community is strong, it is not as well known in the rest of the world as some others. Davidoff wanted to help Caribbean art become better known in the world.

To this end, the Davidoff Art Initiative provides grants for different arts organizations throughout the Caribbean. It will be sending five artists each year from the Dominican Republic to residencies in other parts of the world (New York, Berlin and Beijing, but soon to include two others, probably one in Europe and one in South America).

Arguably the most exciting component of Davidoff’s appearance in Miami was the announcement of the very first five artists chosen for its residency in Dominican Republic.

Ground was broken early this year, and construction is now complete. The first five residents, announced at Davidoff’s cocktail party on December 3, will spend nearly three months at the newly built residency facilities at Altos de Chavón School of Design, in La Romana, Dominican Republic, from January 18 to April 5, 2015. The first five selected are:

Alia Farid (b. 1985, Kuwait)
Nuria Montiel (b. 1982, Mexico)
Cathleen Mooses (b. 1982, USA)
Mathilde Rosier (b. 1973, France)
Soledad Salamé (b. 1954, Chile)
A lovely outdoor area within the Miami Beach Botanical Garden was the location on December 4th for Davidoff’s Art Initiative Brunch. Over a delicious meal, guests were able to meet a number of Caribbean artists, including two of those selected for Davidoff’s residency: Mooses and Salamé.

Mooses says when she heard she had been selected, she immediately felt relief. As one might imagine it can be difficult to make a living as an artist. Cathleen currently works with another artist and as a teaching assistant, and it can be difficult to focus on your own art when you’re busy making a living. To her, this residency is an opportunity to focus completely on her art in a supportive environment. “I’m super excited to have the space, time and support offered by this residency,” she says.