

# New Cultural Foundation Kulturstiftung Basel H. Geiger to Open Permanent Exhibition Space in Basel; Inaugural Show Dedicated to Contemporary Caribbean Art

Kulturstiftung Basel H. Geiger will offer a year-round programme of free-admission exhibitions in a former industrial building in central Basel. Inaugural exhibition commissioned by the Caribbean Art Initiative, a not-for-profit programme dedicated to the promotion and support of Caribbean arts and culture.



West Indien, Adolf Stieler, 1830, 23 x 29.5 cm, Copperplate Print, Colección Cartográfica del Centro León

**Basel, Switzerland. December 4, 2019.** The Kulturstiftung Basel H. Geiger (KBHG), a new cultural foundation, will open a permanent exhibition space in Basel, Switzerland in June 2020. Located in the heart of the city in the former factory for micromotors, the foundation will organise a rotating annual programme of temporary exhibitions on a variety of cultural themes. As a new part of Basel's already rich cultural landscape, KBHG aims to show content that fits the foundation's mission to engage and educate a broad audience, offering a platform for different artistic perspectives.

Founded by philanthropist Sibylle Piermattei Geiger in 2018, the foundation is named after the late Swiss pharmacist and entrepreneur, Sibylle's paternal grandfather, Hermann Geiger. The foundation is headed by former cultural journalist, Raphael Suter and all exhibitions will be free of charge and accompanied by a complimentary visitor catalogue.

The inaugural exhibition will be an international group exhibition organised by the Caribbean Art Initiative (CAI). CAI is an independent, not-for-profit programme that aims to foster the development of arts and culture across the Caribbean region through global support and promotion. Founded by Albertine Kopp in 2019, this will be CAI's first exhibition project with an invited curator, adding a significant new dimension to its artist in residency exchanges, events, and publications. As such, it will be a major step in advancing CAI's goal of fostering new creative opportunities for Caribbean arts around the world, while encouraging deep and salient dialogue with a broad international public.

By situating this first exhibition project in Basel, in the heart of Europe, CAI and the organisers endeavor to offer a crossroads for education and discourse about a still little-understood and

under appreciated segment of the international art community. The presence of the exhibition during Art Basel week in Basel, which draws a large international contingent to the city, provides an opportunity to further expand awareness and understanding of contemporary Caribbean art.

The exhibition curators, Yina Jiménez Suriel and Pablo Guardiola, have been selected via an open-call process. Yina Jiménez Suriel is a researcher, architect, and a curator at Centro León, in the Dominican Republic. Pablo Guardiola, co-directs Beta-Local in San Juan, Puerto Rico. In dialogue with CAI's curatorial advisors, they will engage with a diverse group of artists from across the region to assemble a group of existing and newly-commissioned works that respond to the contemporary political and geographical challenges of the Caribbean, finding common spaces where artistic practice reflects reality.

Raphael Suter, director of the Kulturstiftung Basel H.Geiger, 'As a new foundation opening in Basel, a city with great cultural richness and heritage, it is important that we offer an innovative programme that brings different perspectives on art for Basel locals and visitors alike. We are delighted to be working with the Caribbean Art Initiative on this exciting exhibition of contemporary art from the region and we look forward to revealing more about our future programme in 2020.'

Albertine Kopp, founder of the Caribbean Art Initiative, added, "It is thrilling to bring the diverse aspects of today's Caribbean art to the city of Basel where our two initiatives are based. This city is not only known as a global cultural hub but also as a point of intersection for progressive ideas and global networks. Our aim is to weave Caribbean artists from various parts of the region more deeply into the unfolding international narrative about art."

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For more information, images or further details on the project, please contact Charlotte at Sutton, [charlotte@suttoncomms.com](mailto:charlotte@suttoncomms.com) | +44(0)207 183 3577

**Notes to editors:**

Address: Kultur-Stiftung Basel H. Geiger | Spitalstrasse 18, 4056 Basel, Switzerland

Size: Ca. 400 m<sup>2</sup>

Renovation of space: Christ & Gantenbein appointed in 2019

Curators: Yina Jiménez Suriel and Pablo Guardiola

**About Kulturstiftung Basel H. Geiger**

The Kulturstiftung Basel H. Geiger was founded in 2018 with its mission to organise exhibitions in Basel on a variety of cultural themes. The founder, Sibylle Piermattei Geiger, intends for these exhibitions to be free of charge and thus easily accessible to a broad public. To have a sustainable and lasting effect, visitors will receive a free catalogue, further elaborating the theme of the respective exhibition. The foundation is in Basel and headed by former cultural journalist, Raphael Suter. The foundation's exhibition activities will commence in the spring of 2020. [www.kbhg.ch](http://www.kbhg.ch) (coming soon)

**About Caribbean Art Initiative**

Caribbean Art Initiative, established in 2019, is an independent, non-commercial programme and network work to foster the development of arts and culture across the entire Caribbean region, while raising awareness and promoting dialogue worldwide. With the support of international patrons and advisors, headed by Albertine Kopp, András Szántó and Pablo León de La Barra the initiative focuses on raising awareness and understanding of the arts and culture of the Caribbean region, including artists working internationally in its cultural Diaspora. The initiative seeks to place Caribbean art and artists, as well as curators, writers, and educators, in open an active dialogue with creatives and institutions around the world. [www.caribbean.art/](http://www.caribbean.art/)

**About the curators****Yina Jiménez Suriel**

A curator, researcher and Dominican architect, Yina earned her M.A. in Art History and Visual Culture, focusing on visual studies, from the Universitat de València, Spain. She participated in the first version of the Curando Caribe Program by Centro Cultural de España in Santo Domingo and Centro León. She is currently developing research on women and architectural space in the Dominican Republic: *Domestic Revolution, Public History*, in collaboration with the Universitat Politècnica de València and the magazine *Arquitexto*. This aforementioned project is based on the thesis that contemporary artistic production is the first intellectual space from which the Dominican built space is problematized. Since 2018, Yina works as the Curator at Centro León, with a strong interest in strengthening the collection research program and developing new strategies to think about Dominican social history from the production of visuals.

**Pablo Guardiola**

A visual artist who works mainly with objects, photography, and writing, Pablo's work focuses on the production of varied modes of reading and narration, as well as how they are perceived and interpreted. He has a BA in History from the University of Puerto Rico (Río Piedras) and an MFA from the San Francisco Arts Institute. He has exhibited his work in Little Tree Gallery, Raza Gallery, Romer Young Gallery, San Francisco Arts Commission, Embajada, among others. In 2012, he received grants from Southern Exposure (Alternative Exposure Grant), and the Creative Capacity Fund (CCF), both in San Francisco, CA. In 2009 he received a commission from the Cultural Equity Office in the San Francisco Arts Commission. In 2019 he gained a scholarship from the Flamboyán Artists Association, in association with the National Association of Latin Arts and Cultures and the Flamboyán Arts Fund, in Puerto Rico. Since 2013, Pablo co-directs Beta-Local in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

**Images and Captions:**



KBHG\_1  
The space of Kulturstiftung Basel H. Geiger (pre renovation), 2019



KBHG\_2  
The space of Kulturstiftung Basel H. Geiger (pre renovation), 2019



RS\_1  
Raphael Suter, Director of Kulturstiftung Basel H. Geiger, 2019



YSJ\_1  
Yina Jiménez Suriel, Curator of the Exhibition



PG\_1  
Pablo Guardiola, Curator of the Exhibition



Exh\_1  
Title: West Indien  
Author: Adolf Steiler  
Scale: 1:7 500 000  
Place: Gotha, Germany  
Date: 1830  
Size: 23 x 29.5 cm  
Medium: Colored Copperplate Print  
Colección Cartográfica del Centro León



AK\_1  
Albertine Kopp, Director Caribbean Art Initiative



AS\_1  
András Szántó, Chief Officer of the Board at Caribbean Art Initiative



PLdB\_1  
Pablo Leon de la Barra, Chief Officer of the Artistic Board at Caribbean Art Initiative