



# DISCOVER HAITI EXHIBITION







# “THE HAITIAN PEOPLE NEVER CEASE TO INSPIRE US THROUGH THEIR RESILIENCE AND THEIR INEXHAUSTIBLE INGENUITY.”

The scars of the 2010 earthquake are still visible in Haiti, but there are signs of progress. In Port-au-Prince, children are back in school, construction sites are sprouting and streets are filled with the sounds of traffic and “biznis.” The Haitian people, who have endured countless challenges throughout their history, never cease to inspire us through their resilience and inexhaustible ingenuity.

Seeking to harness that energy, the Haitian government is determined to transform the country from aid dependence to an investment destination. As Haiti’s leading multilateral donor, the IDB Group supports that effort by financing key public investments and by promoting the emergence of a dynamic private sector.

When Haiti proclaims it is “open for business” it is not only courting potential investors, but also calling for innovative partnerships. That is why the IDB Group is proud to host *Discover Haiti*. Donna Karan, the driving force behind Urban Zen, sees Haiti as we do: a land of enormous possibilities. As she rightly says, “where there is creativity, there is hope,” and this exhibit proves it.

Using stone, steel, wood, horn, cloth, cardboard and paper-mache, the master craftsmen and women promoted by Urban Zen’s Haiti Artisan Project tell us a story with a powerful message of optimism. The fine art pieces, fruit of collaboration between Haitian painter and sculptor Philippe Dodard and Australian photographer Russell James, exemplify the boundless imagination that characterizes Haiti’s art.

This striking exhibit also underscores one of the IDB Cultural Center’s goals: to showcase the best of Latin American and Caribbean culture. Since 1992 the Cultural Center has been carrying out its mission of sharing our region’s artistic treasures and rich heritage with a broad public beyond our borders, while demonstrating that “creative industries” can be engines for development.

The IDB Group is committed to finding new ways to support the Haitian artisan sector and other promising economic activities with potential to generate jobs. We welcome this opportunity to partner with the Urban Zen Foundation and Nomad Two Worlds in crafting hope in Haiti.

**Luis Alberto Moreno**  
*President, IDB*

**Julie T. Katzman**  
*Executive Vice President, IDB*





“WHERE THERE IS  
CREATIVITY THERE IS HOPE  
**AND HAITI IS THE MOST  
HOPEFUL PLACE I’VE  
EXPERIENCED.”**

Urban Zen’s mission is to “connect the dots” in order to raise awareness and inspire change by using mind, body and spirit in the areas of well-being, preserving cultures and empowering children. For me, Haiti embodies all that Urban Zen represents.

In my travels throughout Haiti, I realized that the solution for rebuilding the country could be found in the inherent creativity of the people. What I discovered in Haiti is that every single person is an artist and I am committed to preserving the unique beauty of the landscape and the people. I will be forever grateful to President Bill Clinton and the Clinton Foundation for introducing me to this vibrant country and connecting me with powerful like-minded organizations like the Inter-American Development Bank. We came together because of our shared commitment to creating long-term sustainable economic solutions to further unleash the limitless potential of the country and its people.

The Discover Haiti exhibition is a collaboration between Urban Zen and Russell James’ Nomad Two Worlds Project. I am deeply thankful for the opportunity to work with artist Philippe Dodard along with artisans such as Shelley Clay from the Apparent Project, Cookie Villard, Jean-Paul Sylvaïnce, the horn artisan community, and the talented metal workers of Croix Des Bouquets. I have such gratitude for videographer David Belle, Director of the Cine Institute, who captured such authentic beauty through the lens of his camera. Together we have created a sensory window into the captivating world of Haitian culture.

This exhibition represents an on-going journey of celebration and creativity. I welcome you to be a part of it. What I know for sure is that when we come together, there isn’t anything we cannot do.

With love,

*Donna Karan*

# THE HAITI ARTISAN PROJECT

Urban Zen's mission is to help develop, scale and present the work of Haiti artisans to the global market. As ambassadors for the preservation of Haiti's artistry and expression, Donna Karan and a community of supporters have been traveling to Haiti at every opportunity, working one-on-one with the artists and manufacturers to develop the Urban Zen Haiti Artisan Project.

The Haiti Artisan Project is inspired by the elements of Haiti; stone, wood, paper-mache, metal, tobacco and horn are transformed by Haitian hands with artistry refined through generations and cultivated through Donna Karan's vision. The project helps economic development by nurturing artists' pride in the beauty and importance of their own gifts and the wisdom of their culture, while making their crafts available to a much wider community of consumers.

Your support helps further the efforts of Urban Zen ([www.urbanzen.com/www.urbanzen.org](http://www.urbanzen.com/www.urbanzen.org)) which reinvests its profits back into Haiti and has launched the Haiti Artisan Project to implement solutions for the country's economic rebirth while creating handcrafted objects of desire now available in stores across North America and Europe.



URBAN  
ZEN





# DISCOVER HAITI EXHIBITION

Urban Zen and Nomad Two Worlds continue to support the artisans of Haiti through the Discover Haiti exhibition, which was first launched at the Urban Zen Center in New York City. The center was transformed into a gallery and temporary showroom for a collection of art, accessories, clothing, and home furnishings designed and produced in Haiti. The exhibition also featured David Belle's video "Naturally Haiti," a behind-the-scenes look at how the collections were designed as well as gorgeous footage of Haiti and its people. After the exhibition at the IDB Cultural Center in Washington, DC, Discover Haiti will travel to London for the Olympic Games.







**PAPER-MACHE**  
BY CARIBBEAN CRAFT



Tapping into the dynamic Haitian population, Caribbean Craft works with craftsmen possessing great inspiration and talent and pairs these gifts with training and infrastructure to create beautiful artisan products as well as income for over 500 Haitian families.



## HORN ART

BY ATELIER CALLA AND  
RUE DE LA REUNION  
HORN COMMUNITY



Horn artistry has a long tradition in Haiti, dating back more than fifty years when it was introduced from neighboring Cuba. Utilizing horn sourced from cattle raised for consumption, the craft reflects an attitude toward production where ecological sustainability is not encouraged but expected, a byproduct of respect for all life.







**TOBACCO**  
BY JEAN PAUL SYLVAINCE

Rustic leaves of tobacco fused into paper-mache create a line of products exuding a natural elegance and intricacy of form, which cannot be found anywhere else on the globe. These exceptional wares illustrate the idea that, despite the devastation wrought by disaster, creative genius and impassioned dedication can benefit not just the creator, but the world as a whole.



## LEOGANE STONE



These simple hand-carved stone hearts from the city of Leogane, where nearly all of the concrete buildings were destroyed during the 2010 earthquake, are a part of the Million Hearts for Haiti Campaign.







**RECYCLED BEADS  
BY THE APPARENT  
PROJECT**



Through The Apparent Project local artisans use discarded materials such as cereal and cracker boxes, oil drums, and trash paper to create beautiful “upcycled” pieces of jewelry, journals, and stylish home décor.



## EINSTEIN BOWLS



Working outside of Port-au-Prince, Einstein Albert creates wooden bowls and utensils that marry enviable design with flawless technique. The wood is indigenous to the Aquin, Nippes and Gonave regions of Haiti, and the pieces are treated with up to ten layers of lacquer to bring out the wood's naturally brilliant hues and incomparable textures.







**METAL WORK**  
BY PHILIPPE DODARD



Born in Port-au-Prince, Philippe Dodard is a leading contemporary artist of the Caribbean and the African Diaspora.



## METAL WORK

### CROIX DES BOUQUETS



In the 1940s, it was common practice for businesses in Port-au-Prince to travel to a small town on its outskirts, Croix Des Bouquets, and dump metal drums and other industrial wastes. Georges Liautaud, a local blacksmith, took these discarded drums and began cutting and melding them with iron bars, creating elaborate metal ornamentation of exceptional beauty.





## ABOUT

# NOMAD TWO WORLDS

Nomad Two Worlds ([www.nomadtwoworlds.com](http://www.nomadtwoworlds.com)) is a socially responsible business that collaborates with Indigenous artists from around the world to create culturally relevant contemporary art and consumer products. By leveraging its contacts in the global art and retail markets, it tries to increase awareness and sales of these collaborative artworks and related merchandise, provide long-term economic benefit to the artists and their communities, and further the public's appreciation of the world's most ancient cultures.

Nomad's Haitian collaboration began in late 2010 when its founder, Russell James, together with Donna Karan, visited a large cross-section of the Haitian artistic community and established connections with galleries and artists. Russell James started creating photographic works that would become part of a new Haitian collaborative art series. Nomad identified artisans that it wanted to collaborate with and, with assistance from the Clinton Foundation, entered into agreements with Haitian artists via Galerie Monnin and directly with Philippe Dodard. Nomad funded the creation of a large-scale photographic art canvas series and provided advances to artists for commissioned works. To date, Nomad has commissioned 27 collaborative works from Haitian artists and showcased them at gallery openings in Los Angeles and Berlin.

Nomad also provided an important visual component to the "Invest in Haiti Forum" held in Port-au-Prince in November 2011. Over 1,100 participants attended the event organized by the IDB, Government of Haiti and Clinton Foundation. Duggal Visual Solutions (New York) digitally reproduced Nomad's Haitian collaborative artworks on large-format fabric, which were then hung around the venue. Oprah Winfrey recently requested several of the fabric prints for backdrops in a documentary she is making about Haiti.

### NOMAD TWO WORLDS' GOALS FOR 2012 INCLUDE:

- establishing a Haitian collaborative brand;
- securing retail orders for one or more Haitian factories;
- advising various Haitian entities interested in establishing a photographic school production facility in Jacmel; and
- shortlisting new artists via Galerie Monnin for future collaborative projects.

NOMAD  
TWO WORLDS













# THE IDB GROUP: A LONG-TERM COMMITMENT TO HAITI

At the IDB Group, we believe Haiti is a country full of possibilities. Sales of handcrafts currently constitute about 10 percent of Haitian exports, or about \$10 million a year. With the right incentives and support, this cottage activity could become a thriving creative industry, tripling its exports and generating as many as 15,000 new jobs. The IDB Group has joined with others to support this important sector.

As Haiti's leading source of multilateral aid, the IDB Group is also assisting the Haitian government in one of its top priorities: attracting more private sector investment in order to boost employment. One example is the construction of the Caracol Industrial Park in northern Haiti, a project partially financed by the Inter-American Development Bank. This manufacturing facility, set to open this year, will host large companies with plans to hire tens of thousands of workers.

In most countries, small and medium-size enterprises are the main sources of employment. In Haiti, however, SMEs traditionally lacked access to credit for their growth plans. A \$60 million fund managed by the Inter-American Investment Corporation is now co-financing loans to SMEs with local lenders.

At the microenterprise level, our Multilateral Investment Fund has been a champion of microfinance in Haiti for nearly two decades. At present the MIF is financing a broad array of projects that link small farmers to domestic and export markets and train young people for jobs.

All of these projects involve partnerships with other donors, from foreign governments and aid agencies to corporations and NGOs, leveraging the IDB Group's contributions. Our grants are already being invested in building schools, upgrading roads, revamping the electricity system, expanding water and sanitation services and boosting agricultural output. Thanks to our member countries' strong support, the IDB Group expects to provide Haiti more than \$2 billion over this decade. Our long-term commitment puts us in a unique position to help the Haitian people build a more prosperous future.



# DISCOVER HAITI EXHIBITION

JUNE 11-27, 2012  
MON-SUN, 11 AM – 6 PM

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## IDB CULTURAL CENTER 20th Anniversary 1992-2012 Twenty Years in the Service of Culture and Development

The IDB Cultural Center was established in 1992 to contribute to social development, showcase the artistic expressions of the IDB member countries, and bring understanding between Latin America and the Caribbean and the rest of the world.

Its programs are: Cultural Development Grants; Art Exhibitions; the Inter-American Concert, Lecture and Film Series; and the IDB Art Collection. Over the past 20 years, 509 cultural development grants resulted in 60,000 direct beneficiaries; 489 concerts, lectures and films were attended by 96,000 visitors, 83 exhibitions attracted 130,000 guests; 1,722 works in the IDB Art Collection were shown in 17 traveling exhibitions to 78,000 visitors; 180 publications were produced, and some 8,500 press items were written about its activities. In 2010 the IDB Cultural Center received the Washington, DC Mayor's Award for Visionary Leadership in the Arts.

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