



Pacifico Silano Presents *Elegy to the Void* at Ace Hotel New York

Silano is the fourth artist to participate in a series of exhibitions co-presented by Powerhouse Arts and Ace Hotel's Artist in Residence (AIR) Program

Opening June 26, 2025

6-7PM VIP Preview | 7-9PM Public View



Pacifico Silano, *Spring Haze*, 2025. 16"x20" UV Ink on Dibond. Photo courtesy of the artist.

New York, New York (June 2, 2025) — Powerhouse Arts (PHA), in collaboration with Ace Hotel's Artist in Residence (AIR) Program, is pleased to announce *Elegy to the Void*, a new exhibition by artist Pacifico Silano. Drawing from his month-long residency at Ace Hotel New York, the exhibition will open to the public on Thursday, June 26, 2025, and remain on view through August, in the hotel's Lobby gallery.

During his time in residence, Silano transformed a guest room into a working studio, creating new work that continues his deeply personal exploration of queerness, memory, and photographic archives. Known for his lush, rephotographed images derived from gay pornographic magazines of the 1970s and 80s, Silano constructs haunting, layered

compositions that evoke the lingering impact of the HIV/AIDS crisis, as well as the suppressed histories of queer lives.

When the artist was growing up, his mother and father owned and operated an adult novelty store called Undercover Pleasures. Specializing in intimate apparel, DVDs, and adult toys, the store was foundational in shaping his relationship to sexuality, desire, and the source material he uses in his art. It also inspired him to ask questions about his Uncle Frank who was gay and died at the height of the AIDS crisis. After his death, Frank's memory was erased from the family due to the stigma of his sexuality.

These personal experiences have influenced the artist's relationship to his source material. He has recently expanded the themes of his work to explore ideas around desire, power, and violence that have become inextricable from American identity.

Elegy to the Void extends Silano's ongoing inquiry into loss, desire, and the shifting meaning of images over time. This latest body of work—created with the support of Powerhouse Arts' Digital Print Lab—experiments with UV printing techniques and spot varnishes that mimic the textures of magazine pages and the glossy, intimate surfaces of hardwood studio floors. The result is a seductive trompe l'oeil effect that speaks to the illusionary power of photography itself.

With quiet intensity and poetic precision, Silano's images honor those lost to history and illuminate the tensions between personal narrative and collective memory, between visibility and erasure.



Ace Hotel New York Artist-in-Residence Pacifico Silano (left) and works in progress (right) ahead of the opening for “Elegy to the Void” on June 26th. Photo: Elleser Galleta.

About the Artist

Pacifico Silano (b. 1986) is a New York–based artist whose work explores print culture, image circulation, and queer identity. His practice centers on rephotographing and collaging imagery from vintage gay erotica, infusing it with personal and political resonance. Silano’s works have been exhibited in both group and solo shows at the Bronx Museum, Tacoma Art Museum, Museo Universitario del Chopo, Mexico City, The Andy Warhol Museum, The Museum of Sex, The International Center for Photography, Houston Center for Photography, Baxter ST@CCNY, Island Gallery, Light Work, Monti8, Fragment Gallery, and Luis De Jesus Gallery. His work is also found in the permanent collection of The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA). He is a recipient of the Aaron Siskind Foundation Fellowship and the NYFA Fellowship in Photography. His debut monograph, *I Wish I Never Saw the Sunshine*, was published by Loose Joints in 2021 and was shortlisted for the Paris Photo/Aperture First Book Award. He earned his MFA from the School of Visual Arts in New York City.

About Ace Hotel’s AIR Program

The Ace Hotel Artist in Residence (AIR) Program invites artists to transform hotel guest rooms into working studios for one month. This culminates in an exhibition that shares the resulting body of work with the public. Since its launch in 2014, the AIR program has supported artists across disciplines in cities around the world, with an emphasis on local voices, community engagement, and creative experimentation. Powerhouse Arts was selected as the 2024–2025 curatorial partner for Ace Hotel New York.

About Powerhouse Arts

Powerhouse Arts (PHA) is a not-for-profit organization committed to creative expression. Located in a purpose-built facility in Brooklyn, the organization hosts an extended network of art and fabrication professionals and educators who work together to co-create and share artistic practices vital to the wellbeing of artists and the communities to which they belong. The project builds on Brooklyn’s 200-year history as a center for industry and creates a needs-responsive platform and a critical new resource for artists in the heart of the borough. The organization offers art fabrication programs for ceramic, print and public art, as well as space for communal education and events. The facility is also home to MGC Community Print Studio and nonprofit decorative arts fabrication shop The Alpha Workshops. The building also houses multi-use facilities for education, events, and public engagement.

For more information, visit www.powerhousearts.org. Please sign up for [the newsletter](#) and follow on Instagram: [@powerhouse_arts](#).

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