

**For Immediate Release**

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REFINERY  
— Hotel —



HLK Art Group

**REFINERY HOTEL LAUNCHES ART PARTNERSHIP WITH HLK ART GROUP TO DEBUT NYC-INSPIRED ART COLLECTION**

*The luxury Midtown hotel collaborates with art advisor Heidi Lee Komaromi for a limited-time bespoke pop-up and exhibit featuring NYC-based artists, including, Laurent Elie Badessi, Nicole Cohen, David Paul Kay, Jeremy Silva, JP Kadzinski and Christophe Pouget.*

**New York, NY (February X, 2020)** - Refinery Hotel is pleased to announce its partnership with HLK Art Group, a New York-based art advisor specializing in Post-War and Contemporary Art, for a curated art collection on view throughout the property until May 26. Starting this month, eleven handpicked pieces from New York-based artists, including Laurent Elie Badessi, Nicole Cohen and JP Kadzinski, will be displayed on each floor's elevator landing, providing hotel guests with the unique opportunity to discover and purchase local artwork that has been carefully curated by an expert without seeking out galleries in an unfamiliar city.

“I was drawn toward these six contemporary artists for their artistic prowess,” said the exhibit’s curator, Heidi Lee Komaromi of HLK Art Group, who has executed curatorial projects for Refinery Hotel in the past, in addition to SoHo House West Hollywood and The Standard, East Village. “Refinery Hotel’s industrial-chic design makes it the perfect space to bring these artists together for a cohesive exhibition that reflects the beauty of New York City and unlocks the city’s endless possibilities to the guests who experience the collection.”

Refinery Hotel will kick off the partnership with a two-day pop-up gallery in its event space, The Hatbox, that will be free and open to the public on February 21 and February 22. Titled *BE FREE*, the exhibition takes its name from the two-minute video installation that will play on The Hatbox’s widescreen projector during the pop-up. Created by Nicole Cohen, whose work is currently showing at the Frieze Los Angeles art fair, *BE FREE* reflects on feelings of disorientation upon relocation to a new city, pulling inspiration from historical spaces, vintage interiors, period rooms and transformative places.

Among the artists featured in this limited-time exhibit is fourth-generation French photographer Laurent Elie Badessi, ahead of his *Age of Innocence* exhibit's American debut at The National Arts Club later this year. Badessi's black and white photography has been displayed across sixty-foot billboards in Times Square and featured in museum and private collections across Milan, Paris, Beijing and beyond.

Visitors will also get to see scaled down versions of David Paul Kay's massive murals, known to take over city blocks, Christophe Pouget's collages of the city's most iconic landmarks, Jeremy Silva's colorful blown glass incorporating unexpected flora and fauna, and the photographic art of JP Kadzinski, zooming in on the urban landscape's smallest details.

"This collaboration will help Refinery Hotel guests discover and purchase local artwork," says Tyler Dubs, General Manager of Refinery Hotel. "The program will educate our guests about the city's diverse art community and amplify their experience within our hotel."

HLK Art Group has curated dozens of art exhibitions and has helped acquire and appraise hundreds of works of art by emerging and blue chip artists. HLK Art Group collaborated with Fremin Gallery as part of a larger partnership to feature art throughout the Refinery Hotel. Founded in 2007, Fremin Gallery focuses mainly on photographic works and represents over a dozen contemporary artists including David Arky, Drew Tal and Tigran Tsitoghdzian.

**BE FREE will be open in Refinery Hotel's event space, The Hatbox on Friday, February 21 and Saturday, February 22, from noon to 8pm. An opening reception from 6-8pm on Friday, February 21** will give attendees the chance to meet the artists in residence over cocktails and hor d'oeuvres. All of the artwork, both in the hotel and in the pop-up gallery, will be available for purchase. Full event details can be found [here](#).

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### **About HLK Art Group**

Founded 2002, HLK Art Group aids businesses and individuals through all stages of collecting art. From sourcing the finest works of art to managing entire art collections, clients can make informed decisions before and after every purchase. Clients include AT Kearney, Exxon, Marina Bay Sands, UBS, and Harris Beach PLLC, among many others. For more information, please visit <https://hltkartgroup.com/>.

### **About Refinery Hotel**

Refinery Hotel is the leader in the revitalization of New York City's Fashion District, located at its heart at 38th Street between 5th and 6th Avenues. Originally built as a high-end millinery

factory and tea salon in 1912, Refinery's design draws on the building's past combining raw elegance in the guestrooms with refined public spaces. The 197-room hotel includes fashion-forward loft-like guestrooms featuring custom furniture, original artwork, industrial-chic design, 12-foot high ceilings, Frette linens, Le Labo bathroom amenities and a 24-hour fitness center. The property also hosts Parker & Quinn, an American bistro, Winnie's Jazz Bar, the prohibition era inspired bar and a stunning 3,500-square-foot indoor/outdoor rooftop lounge with views of the Empire State Building. The hotel has earned rave reviews and is consistently listed on some of the industry's most coveted lists including Travel + Leisure's It List.

[www.refineryhotelnewyork.com](http://www.refineryhotelnewyork.com)

### **ABOUT THE ARTISTS**

**LAURENT ELIE BADESSI:** Badessi is a fourth-generation French photographer based in New York City. He frequently uses symbolism, mythology, and historical and cultural references in his work. Solo and group shows of his work have taken place around the world in major cities like New York, Los Angeles, Boston, Miami, London, Milan, Rome, Paris, Nice, Barcelona, Kuwait City, Beijing, Monaco, and Dubai. Badessi's work is included in major private and museum collections such as **The Elton John Collection**, **Barry Diller**, **Le Musée de l'Elysée** in Lausanne, Switzerland, **La Bibliothèque Nationale de France**, **Le Musée des Arts Décoratifs** in Paris, Louvre. He has received several prestigious awards, including a grant from the French Department of Cultural Affairs for his Paris show "*Métamorphoses*". This September, Badessi's work will be included in a traveling museum exhibition starting at The Wiesbaden Museum in Germany alongside works by notable artists Helmut Newton, Peter Lindbergh, Bert Stern, Irving Penn, and Richard Avedon.

**DAVID PAUL KAY:** Originally from the Republic of Georgia, David Paul Kay is an American contemporary artist and muralist. He is known for his signature black and white style as well as for his large-scale mural work including collaborations with **Equinox**, **PayPal**, **Cadillac and MontBlanc**. His mural piece titled, "HK52" instantly went viral on social media which led to a major 5,000 sf commission in Chelsea, NY at G Lounge. Other commissioned projects include the rooftop mural, *TWO12*, the 100 Gates Project mural on Lower East Side, *Stage158* rooftop mural in Harlem, and *East Side Orgy* mural at Ideal Glass Gallery in the East Village. Kay's work is represented by Galerie-Kontakthof in Paris and Visual Artists Group in Los Angeles.

**NICOLE COHEN:** Video and installation artist, Nicole Cohen works with new media as a means to explore issues of how different environments such as interior design and architecture can uncover hidden aspects of identity. She received her BA from Hampshire College and her MFA from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. She has exhibited at several institutions around the world including the **Brooklyn Museum of Art**, Los Angeles County of Art, Williams College Museum of Art, Shoshana Wayne Gallery, La B.A.N.K Galerie in Paris, France, The Museum of the Moving Image, and the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles,

where she received a solo show of her work.

**JEREMY SILVA:** Jeremy Silva is a contemporary artist from Hawaii who is based in Brooklyn with a deep appreciation for life and the environment. He works across various mediums such as glass, wood, paint and flora and fauna. He works with teams of glass blowers at local factories to produce works evocative of the uncanny forces of nature. With each piece, he achieves the utmost balance and harmony through his deft use and execution of materials and the resulting effect is at once powerful and spiritual. He hopes to inspire people to a point where they deeply appreciate and care for their surrounding environment and relationships. Silva is a self-taught artist with a special gift to connect with whales and other mammals of the sea.

**JP KADZINSKI:** French photographer, Jean Philippe Kadzinski produces rhythmic depictions of urban landscapes. Born in a small village in Lorraine, the artist spent his youth surrounded by nature and had an idyllic childhood. At an early age, he pursued a mechanical diploma and advertising studies which have influenced his highly technical works. His oeuvre aims to challenge the traditional genre of landscape and illusionistic perspective through his innovative take on urban landscapes. His artwork is fueled by a yearning for, and eventual attainment of a creatively abundant lifestyle and is evocative of “an optimistic longing that invites even the most jaded viewer to peer through the liberating lens of hopeful possibility”.

**CHRISTOPHE POUGET:** Christophe Pouget is a mixed media artist whose work explores the relationship between time and space. Rather than a “visual diary” of his surroundings, Pouget’s choice of imagery represents a personal evocation of emotional feelings that connect him to a specific place at any given moment. Through his assemblage process, the photograph images are geniusly re-configured to create surreal yet relatable compositions. According to the artist, “we can follow many paths in life, but we all leave traces of our passage somewhere; in places where someone else was before us and did the same thing”.

**ABOUT THE CURATOR:** New York- based art advisor and curator, Heidi Lee Komaromi is a seasoned veteran of the art world. Specializing in Post-War and Contemporary, she has seventeen years of professional art experience curating and managing art collections. She has helped clients acquire numerous works of art by both emerging and blue chip artists. Heidi holds a Masters degree in Art History and is a certified member of the Appraisers Association of America.