

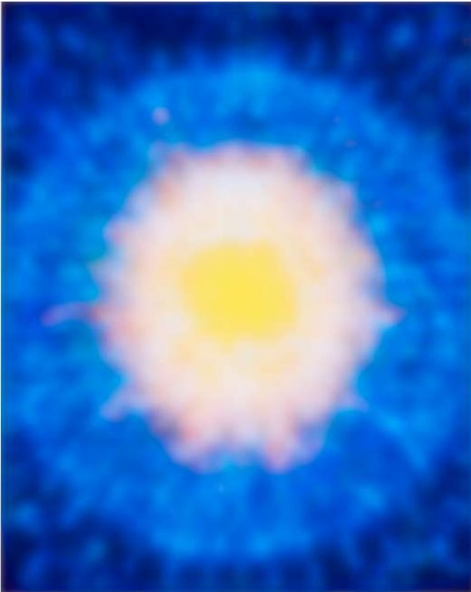
## Leo Villareal: Nebulae

25 January – 18 March, 2023

Quai des Bergues

Geneva

Opening Reception: Tuesday 24 January, 6-8pm



Leo Villareal, *Sapphire Nebula*, 2022

LEDs, acrylic, aluminum, electronics, custom software © Leo Villareal

Geneva—Pace Gallery is delighted to announce *Leo Villareal: Nebulae*, the American artist's first solo exhibition in Switzerland. Bringing together a suite of eight new wall-based digital sculptures, this presentation will coincide with the 2023 edition of artgenève, where the artist will showcase a major installation in the main hall. *Nebulae* marks Pace's sixth solo exhibition of Villareal's work, underscoring the gallery's commitment to championing contemporary practices that push the boundaries of art and technology.

Rooted in art historical language of abstraction, Villareal's practice uses pixels and binary code to create complex, rhythmic compositions. Investigating the capacity of light and code as both medium and subject, Villareal's practice is concerned with the immersive, experiential, and sensorial qualities of perception. Villareal's major projects include his public installation *The Bay Lights* (2013) on the Bay Bridge in San Francisco and the long-term project *Illuminated River*, in which nine bridges along the River Thames in London are lit up every evening. Villareal has constructed a generative sequence of subtly shifting LED lights that bring attention to the relationships between architecture and nature, responding to the natural fluctuations of the currents and sky.

Villareal's latest body of work, titled *Nebulae*, brings this language of brightly coloured LED lights, electronics, and custom coding into the gallery space. These new wall-based sculptures are comprised of hypnotic, diffused light that pulsates in vibrant hues of radiant colours. Drawing simultaneously on organic, celestial imagery and the visual lexicon of custom software, Villareal's work bridges the divide, inviting viewers to engage with the boundary that separates the physical and digital worlds.

**Leo Villareal** (b. 1967, Albuquerque, New Mexico) creates complex works of art with LED lights, using custom programming to constantly change their frequency, intensity, and patterning. Ranging from wall-mounted pieces and room-sized installations to public projects the scale of buildings and bridges, Villareal's light-based works prompt reconsideration of light, space, and technology. Often inspired by natural phenomena, they evoke—but do not illustrate—elemental and atmospheric systems with emergent behavior that occurs without a

predetermined outcome. Firmly rooted in abstraction, Villareal’s approach uses layered sequencing to develop his light sculptures, resulting in open-ended, immersive experiences for viewers.

**Pace** is a leading international art gallery representing some of the most influential contemporary artists and estates from the past century, holding decades-long relationships with Alexander Calder, Jean Dubuffet, Barbara Hepworth, Agnes Martin, Louise Nevelson, and Mark Rothko. Pace enjoys a unique U.S. heritage spanning East and West coasts through its early support of artists central to the Abstract Expressionist and Light and Space movements.

Since its founding by Arne Glimcher in 1960, Pace has developed a distinguished legacy as an artist-first gallery that mounts seminal historical and contemporary exhibitions. Under the current leadership of President and CEO Marc Glimcher, Pace continues to support its artists and share their visionary work with audiences worldwide by remaining at the forefront of innovation. Now in its seventh decade, the gallery advances its mission through a robust global program—comprising exhibitions, artist projects, public installations, institutional collaborations, performances, and interdisciplinary projects. Pace has a legacy in art bookmaking and has published over five hundred titles in close collaboration with artists, with a focus on original scholarship and on introducing new voices to the art historical canon.

The gallery has also spearheaded explorations into the intersection of art and technology through its new business models, exhibition interpretation tools, and representation of artists cultivating advanced studio practices. As part of its commitment to technologically engaged artists within and beyond its program, Pace launched a hub for its web3 activity, Pace Verso, in November 2021.

Today, Pace has nine locations worldwide, including a European foothold in London and Geneva, and two galleries in New York—its headquarters at 540 West 25th Street, which welcomed almost 120,000 visitors and programmed 20 shows in its first six months, and an adjacent 8,000 sq. ft. exhibition space at 510 West 25th Street. Pace’s long and pioneering history in California includes a gallery in Palo Alto, which operated from 2016 to 2022. Pace’s engagement with Silicon Valley’s technology industry has had a lasting impact on the gallery at a global level, accelerating its initiatives connecting art and technology as well as its work with experiential artists. Pace consolidated its West Coast activity through its flagship in Los Angeles, which opened in 2022. Pace was one of the first international galleries to establish outposts in Asia, where it operates permanent gallery spaces in Hong Kong and Seoul, as well as an office and viewing room in Beijing. Pace’s satellite exhibition spaces in East Hampton and Palm Beach present continued programming on a seasonal basis.

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


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