

Ruvén Afanador: GRAND ILLUSION PHOTOGRAPHS

December 3, 2026 through January 23, 2027
Artist Reception: Thursday, December 3rd - 7pm to 9pm

Fahey/Klein Gallery is pleased to present ***Ruvén Afanador: GRAND ILLUSION PHOTOGRAPHS***, the first exhibition dedicated exclusively to the fashion photography of Ruvén Afanador. Celebrated for his extensive editorial work, Ruvén Afanador has developed a photographic language in which elegance, eccentricity, and sensuality meet. This exhibition brings his fashion images into focus as a distinct expression of an imagination shaped by Afanador's heritage, the aesthetics of dance, and a fascination with transformation.

In Ruvén Afanador's photographs, clothing becomes an instrument of storytelling. A silhouette establishes a character; a gesture introduces tension; an elaborate setting suggests a story unfolding beyond the frame. Afanador's photographs illustrate compositions where beauty can be commanding, mysterious, or mischievous. His images provoke exploration into worlds that feel at once meticulously constructed while also governed by the unexpected. Dramatic black-and-white, opulent color, sculptural poses, and improbable juxtapositions lend his scenes their distinctive blend of formal precision and theatrical freedom.

The sensibility that animates his fashion work also runs through his personal projects. Across his many bodies of work, dress and gesture carry profound emotional weight, while strength and vulnerability coexist. His fashion photography extends this inquiry, opening conventional ideas of beauty and gender to more fluid and unexpected interpretations. ***Ruvén Afanador: GRAND ILLUSION PHOTOGRAPHS*** offers an opportunity to consider the enduring artistic vision behind images created for the changing pages of fashion.

Ruvén Afanador was born in Colombia. He moved to New York City in 1990 where he has achieved an exceptional career photographing the emblematic figures and change-makers of fashion, music, politics, arts, and film. Ruvén's work has appeared in countless publications including New York Magazine, Vanity Fair, Rolling Stone, The Hollywood Reporter, Billboard, The New York Times Magazine, Vogue, Tatler, Elle, and The New Yorker. In addition to his vast number of editorial publications, Ruvén has an impressive list of book publications that illustrate his own artistic expression: *Torero* (Edition Stemmler, 2001), *Sombra* (Merrell Pub Ltd, 2004), *Mil Besos* (Rizzoli, 2009), *Ángel Gitano* (Rizzoli, 2014) and *Hijas del Agua* (Ediciones Gamma, 2020). His photographs have been exhibited in galleries and museums in Spain, Italy, Colombia, Argentina, Japan, and the United States.

Press Photographs & Press Materials Are Available Upon Request.