



CHECK OUT THESE HOTEL GUESTS

GERWYN DAVIES IS ALL HIS own work. He designs and makes his costumes, photographs himself wearing them, then edits the images in his Sydney studio. His art is in public collections and this year it's been turning shoppers' heads as they pass the windows of Hermès boutiques in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane.

For his latest series, *Pleasure*, Davies' brief was to respond to the architectural features of a location:

Brisbane's mid-century vibe The Calile Hotel. After many lockdown setbacks, he toured the New Farm site and decided on which spaces he wanted to work in, then devised characters and costumes to suit.

The resulting images are like "polished postcards from paradise", says Davies. "They embody the sense of sun-drunk resplendence that being cocooned inside the hotel arouses."

His first hotel residency had its moments. "As I was shooting a red

pleather love-heart outfit while sprawled on a bed, Calile housekeeping arrived and the situation – lights, camera, costume – all looked so tawdry and hilarious we just stood stunned, smiling at each other, mouths agape.

"But the campy practice itself, the costumes, the images, the sequin spectacle, I take very seriously!" *Pleasure* will be on show at The Calile from September 15 to October 4. All works are for sale through Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane. *Philippa Coates*