

RIANA RAOUNA

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ALMOST PARADISE

EXHIBITION CATALOGUE

17 November - 1 December 2023

276 Ermou Street, 1016 Nicosia

For enquiries, please contact us at:
+357 22462888, info@rianaraouna.com

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Eliza Wiszniewska, *Let's get lost in the wild*,
Mixed media on canvas, 2022, 135 x 135 cm

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Eliza Wiszniewska, *Cat me if you can*,
Mixed media on canvas, 2023, 80 x 80 cm

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Eliza Wiszniewska, *My memories will not fade away*,
Mixed media on canvas, 2023, 100 x 70 cm

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Eliza Wiszniewska, *No Ananas, no Party II*,
Mixed media on canvas, 2023, 39,5 x 29,5 cm

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Eliza Wiszniewska, *Divine Cynara*,
Mixed media on canvas, 2023, 39,5 x 29,5 cm

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Eugenia Cuellar, *Cocktail Hour*,
Oil on Belgian linen, 2020-2021, 195 x 150 cm

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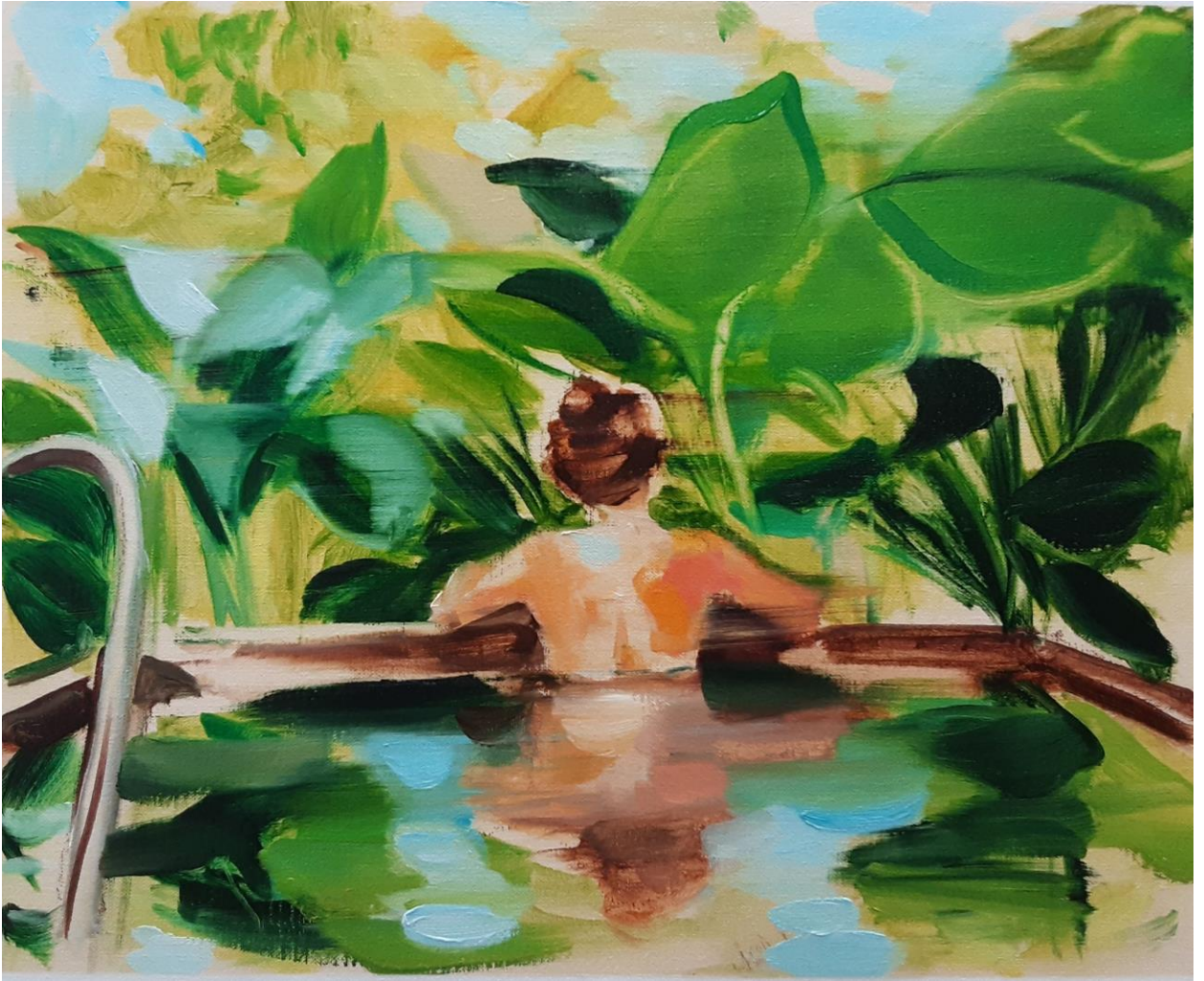
Eugenia Cuellar, *Bright Star*,
Oil on linen, 2022, 146 x 114 cm

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Eugenia Cuellar, *Beach Club*,
Oil on linen, 2023, 56 x 45 cm

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Eugenia Cuellar, *Pond*,
Oil on linen, 2023, 33 x 41 cm

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Golnaz Afraz, *Le reflet des pensées*,
Oil and acrylic on canvas, 2023, 140 x 112 cm

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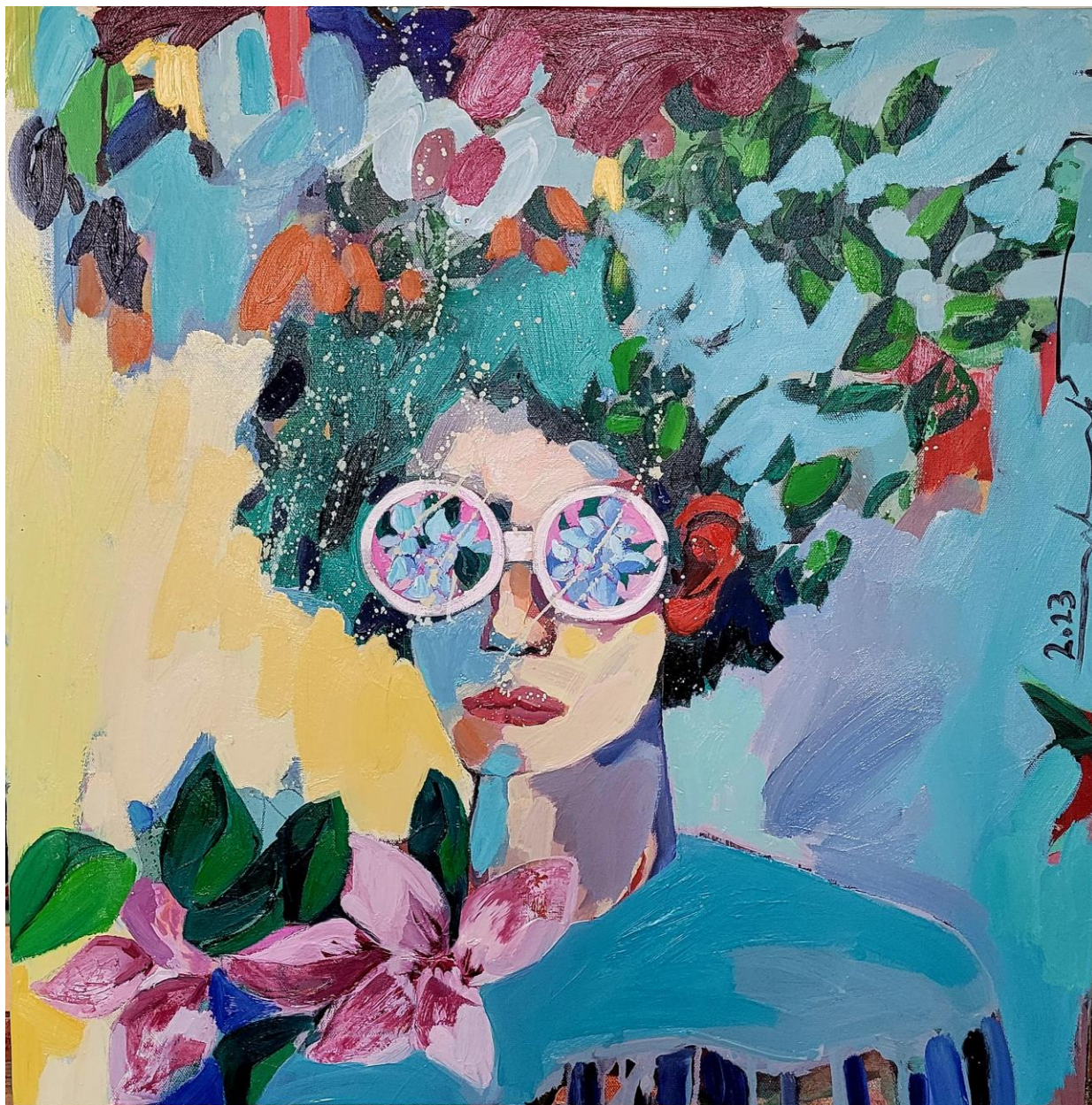
Golnaz Afraz, *Miroir du Passé*,
Oil and acrylic on canvas, 2023, 100 x 120 cm

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Golnaz Afraz, *Woman in Red*,
Oil and acrylic on canvas, 2020, 100 x 100 cm

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Golnaz Afraz, *Blue Light*,
Oil and acrylic on canvas, 2023, 60 x 60 cm

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Henry Glover, *If I'm in love with you would you love me*,
Oil and pastel on canvas, 2023, 130 x 150cm

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Henry Glover, *For a Reason*,
Oil on canvas, 2022, 80 x 60 cm

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Mia Takemoto, *Goshono-yu*,
Tempera and origami paper on wood, 2023, 53 x 46 cm

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Taedong Lee, *Ocean Front*,
Acrylic and Oil on canvas, 2021, 30 x 30 cm

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Taedong Lee, *White Moon*,
Acrylic and Oil on canvas. 2021, 33.4 x 24.2 cm

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Thibaut Bouedjoro-Camus, *Hidden Horizon*,
Oil on canvas, 2023, 81 x 65 cm

Dani Tagen, Sound piece ***Dreaming Nature***,
Limited edition cassette tapes (50) & digital track, 2023, 10 min 50 sec

BIOGRAPHY OF THE ARTISTS

Eliza Wiszniewska

Born in 1986 in Chelm, Poland. Lives and works in Dusseldorf, Germany.

Nature is at the centre of the artistic practice of Eliza Wiszniewska, who is fascinated by the variety of plants, their shapes, colours and patterns. Most importantly, she is inspired by nature's unapologetic desire to live and flourish.

In her canvases, nature acts as a healer, as a home, as a judge, inviting the viewer to surrender to an enchanting realm away from the goal-oriented contemporary life. Imagination, emotions and gut feeling are her primary guiding forces, while the artist also uses references from photographs and found images. For the creation of her paintings Wiszniewska uses a variety of materials such as coloured pencils, pastels, wax crayons, acrylic paints, gouache, charcoal and oil paints.

Eliza Wiszniewska holds a Master's degree in Engineering - Landscape Architecture from the KUL University in Lublin, Poland and a Master's degree in Painting from the Düsseldorf Akademie in Germany where she was a student of professor Herbert Brandl.

In 2018 she was awarded with the first prize at the Art Battle Competition in Heimbach, Germany. Her work has been exhibited in 20 solo and group shows in Germany and Poland. Selected exhibitions include: Group exhibition Kunstpunkte, Düsseldorf (2022); Solo exhibition, Raum Für Kunst, Düsseldorf (2021); Start Art Week, Group exhibition "Spectral" (2021); Group exhibition, Museum K21, Kunstsammlung Nordrhein - Westfalen, Düsseldorf (2020).

Eugenia Cuellar

Born in A Coruña, Spain. Lives and works between Madrid and Galicia, Spain.

From major political problems to basic human needs and fears, Eugenia Cuellar paintings are basically focused on women and the challenges they have to face in a contemporary world. Women interacting with men and women, in different spaces and situations, in Marc Augé non-places, etc., subjected to other people and rules, to customs and social standards.

So, her work can oscillate from painful or abusive situations to idyllic ones that make up a kind of parallel world that surrounds us. Exotic landscapes, interiors, portraits conform this secondary world. A world of beauty and pleasure that create a new unreachable standard, an unavoidable mirror in which to look oneself at.

Eugenia Cuellar studied Fine Art and Law at Complutense University and UDC- Santiago University (Spain). She has a MFA in Research in Art and Creation (2017, Complutense University) and has also undertaken studies at Turps Art School (CC, 2022/2017).

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Her work has been exhibited in a number of solo and group shows in UK, Portugal, Spain, Belgium, Italy and Japan. Selected group shows include, among others: Bloomberg New Contemporaries 22, Hull, Humber Street Gallery & Ferens Art Gallery and South London Gallery; Royal Academy Summer Exhibition 22. London; MOSTYN Open 21; Royal West Academy 168th Annual Open Exhibition, Bristol; Wells Art Contemporary 21-20; Cambridge Summer Open at the Alson Richard Building; Repurpose Reverse, Studio 1.1, London (2019); Royal Scottish Academy of Art and Architecture, Open Exhibition of Art (2018).

Golnaz Afraz

Born in 1981 in Tehran, Iran. Lives and works in Strasburg, France

Golnaz Afraz explores a variety of themes in her work, each of which can be seen as poignant in terms of both individual and universal experience. She explores notions of life in the philosophical sense, and in the everyday, all through analysing human nature, our relationship with nature and surroundings.

The artist intends to create a story and to allow the viewer to draw their own conclusions. The starting point might be the memory of a scene from daily life or from a play or film she has seen. She paints this reality in multiple layers, depicting various fragments of time on the same plane and superimposing forms. Sections of her paintings are purposefully left unfinished or in sketch form in order to give the work space to breathe.

Golnaz Afraz holds a BA in Painting from the University of Azad in Tehran and two Master's degrees, an MA in Visual Arts from the University of Strasburg in France and an MA in Painting from the University of Tarbiat Modarres in Tehran. In 2015 she won the first prize at the Saatchi Art Showdown "The Painted World". Her work has been exhibited in 11 solo and 35 group shows in Europe and Asia including Art Paris at the Grand Palais and London Art Fair. Other selected solo and group exhibitions include: Brûlée Gallery, Strasburg (2022, 2021, 2017, 2015, 2012); Autour de l'image Gallery, Strasburg (2021); Battersea Art fair, Gala Fine Art, London (2021); Saatchi Gallery, London (2014).

Henry Glover

Born 1997 in Oxford, England. Lives and works in London.

Henry Glover is a London-based painter and ceramicist who won the Saatchi Art 'Rising Star' award in 2020, naming him as one of the top 35 artists around the world under 35 years old.

In his works, Glover tends to focus on the interplay between the physical sensations of his materials and the raw emotions experienced in his own life and close relationships. The embrace is a recurring motif embodied in many forms in his work and he is concerned with common feelings of introspection that prove to catalyse the effects of rumination and loneliness.

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Henry Glover obtained a BA (Hons) in Fine Art: Painting from Wimbledon College of Arts, London in 2020 and since then he has been actively exhibiting his work. Recent solo and group exhibitions include: *Take Me Somewhere Nice*, Liliya Art Gallery, London (solo show, 2021); *When Snowdrops Rise*, MAPA Fine Art, London (2021); *Nemesis*, Asylum Chapel, London (2020); *Penultimatum*, Copeland Gallery, London (2020); *Under the Same Sky*, Riana Raouna Gallery, Nicosia (2022); *Dream on Dreamer*, Riana Raouna Gallery, Nicosia (2022). Glover's works are held in private collections across the world, ranging from America to Europe and South Korea.

Mia Takemoto

Born 1997 in Brisbane, Australia. Lives and works in Edinburgh, Scotland

Mia Takemoto is a British-Japanese artist working in Edinburgh. Her art practice celebrates cultural hybridity, bringing together techniques, materials and themes to create a new, transnational style that bears her unique signature. As a British-Japanese artist born in Australia and currently living between Scotland and Japan, her work is strongly influenced by the cultures she is rooted-in and have routed through.

In her paintings she explores the concept of "third-cultural space", which is made up of components to which the individual feels that they belong and is characterised by a hybridity of cultures. Takemoto's expression of cultural hybridity is also reflected in her choice of materials and processes, which oscillate between East and West. Traditional Asian materials such as sumi ink, origami collage, and egg tempera are used in paintings of contemporary art, where the process of preparing the materials becomes as important as the painting itself.

Mia Takemoto completed an MA in Fine Art and History of Art at the University of Edinburgh. In 2019, she enrolled on the BFA Visual Art programme at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver. Recent solo and group exhibitions include: *RISING STARS*, The Royal Society of British Artists (2021); *Hampstead Art Society*, The Fitzrovia Gallery, London (2021); *Room With a View* online exhibition, Google Arts & Culture (2020), *Works on Paper*, Rafiki Gallery, Edinburgh (2020); *Printmaking Vol. 1*, Rafiki Gallery, Edinburgh (2021); *Under the Same Sky*, Riana Raouna Gallery, Nicosia (2022); *Dream on Dreamer*, Riana Raouna Gallery, Nicosia (2022). In 2020, Takemoto's painting *Chess Match* was longlisted for the 2020 Scottish Portrait Award; and was featured by SFMOMA (San Francisco Museum of Modern Art).

Taedong Lee

Taedong Lee works with the motifs of memory and feelings related to the landscape, which was either visited, seen in a picture, or read in a book. By distorting the image through a combination of impasto and thin layers of paint, Lee transforms classical scenes of nature into nostalgic compositions, where forests, rivers, and sky begin to blend into a single, impressionistic whole.

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With this, the artist attempts to reconstruct a new space which he calls a "phantom place"; an emotional mélange between memory of the past and feelings of the present. As the artist explains, "my work begins by reflecting on the experience of a landscape, the vision, the touch, the smell, and the sounds of that time. More than just transferring memories, the recollected landscape elements are reinterpreted into a new space with various color harmony and techniques that express my own fundamental feelings."

Taedong Lee obtained his MA Fine Art: Painting from Camberwell College of Arts, London in 2020 and his BA in Painting Fine Arts from Gachon University College of Arts, Korea in 2016. Recent solo and group exhibitions include: Emerald Island, Taymour Grahne Project, London (2021); Hysterica, M.A.D.S. Art Gallery, Milan (2021); New Opening, Sunchang Youth Mansion and Canverse (NFT, 2021); Asyaaf, Hongik museum of art, South Korea (2021); London Grads Show, Saatchi Gallery, London (2020); Under the Same Sky, Riana Raouna Gallery, Nicosia (2022); Dream on Dreamer, Riana Raouna Gallery, Nicosia (2022).

Thibaut Bouedjoro-Camus

Born 1996 in Reims, France. Lives and works in Paris

Thibaut Bouedjoro-Camus is an expressionist, figurative painter, a graduate of the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris. In his portrait series, he is interested in painting people and the relationship between them.

Unlike classic portrait painting where the sitters remain still, Bouedjoro-Camus creates his portraits in real time allowing them to move as they feel, as well as through video recordings. This is done in order to allow time to reveal the essence of the relationship between his sitters, which is often blurred between friendship and romance, attraction and repulsion. As the artist explains "the fact that they are live models means that they move their body, time is passing, the light is changing, and this gives a different result as opposed to painting from a still photograph." These portrait paintings are perceived to be collective works between the artist and his subjects because both parties define how the painting evolves.

Thibaut Bouedjoro-Camus graduated with Distinction from the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris (Félicitations du jury) and has been awarded with the significant prize Agnès B by the Friends Association of the Beaux-Arts. Recent solo and group exhibitions include: Bonne Nouvelle, Galerie Cécile Fakhoury, Abidjan, Ivory Coast (solo show, 2022); Relations curated by Samuele Visentin (solo show, 2022); About NOW #1 (group show) Galerie Cécile Fakhoury Abidjan, Ivory Coast (2021); Moins de trente ans !!!, la Fab, Paris (2020); Lauréats des Amis des Beaux-Arts, Siège Agnès B. 10 rue Dieu, Paris (2018).

Dani Tagen

Born in Santos, Brazil. Lives and works in London

Dani Tagen is a London-based artist whose practice reflects her multi-faceted creativity. As a visual artist and co-founder of the avant-garde punkist music project x-blu, Tagen's work

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remains rooted in System Theory, across various artistic media. Her fascination with randomness is a driving force. Tagen's work embodies a blend of calculated structure and the allure of chance. She meticulously delves into research before unleashing the unpredictable interactions of open systems that influence her creative process. She sees herself as a selective harvester, curating the finest elements to consistently produce awe-inspiring pieces.

Dani Tagen completed an MA in Fine Art at Chelsea College of Art and an MA in Art & Teaching at Goldsmiths University of London. Recent solo and group exhibitions include: *Borders of Reflection*, Gyula Barta Gallery, Slovakia (2023); *From Water* - a video-installation inside the Egg of Exbury by Stephen Turner - commission by Bow Arts and ACE, London (2021); Thamesmead Festival "Exbury Egg Residency", Lakeside Centre, London (2021). In 2022 Dani Tagen won the 1st prize for Best Drama at NYC International Film Festival and the Best Experimental Award at the Accord Film Festival with the short film "Time Window".

In 2022, she was also awarded the FATHOM Grant by Four Corners to shoot her first experimental 16mm film "OUT OF THE ABYSS" and received the Richard & Siobhan Coward Foundation grant to produce an analogue photography series called "LIGHT SCARS". She has recently attended a 3 month art residency in Sturovo, Slovakia as the 57th Bridge Guard, in Spring 2023.

Tagen has exhibited in Sao Paulo, London, Berlin, Vienna, Slovakia, Hungary and Houston, TX. Her work is held in private collections in Houston, Sao Paulo, London and Tokyo.