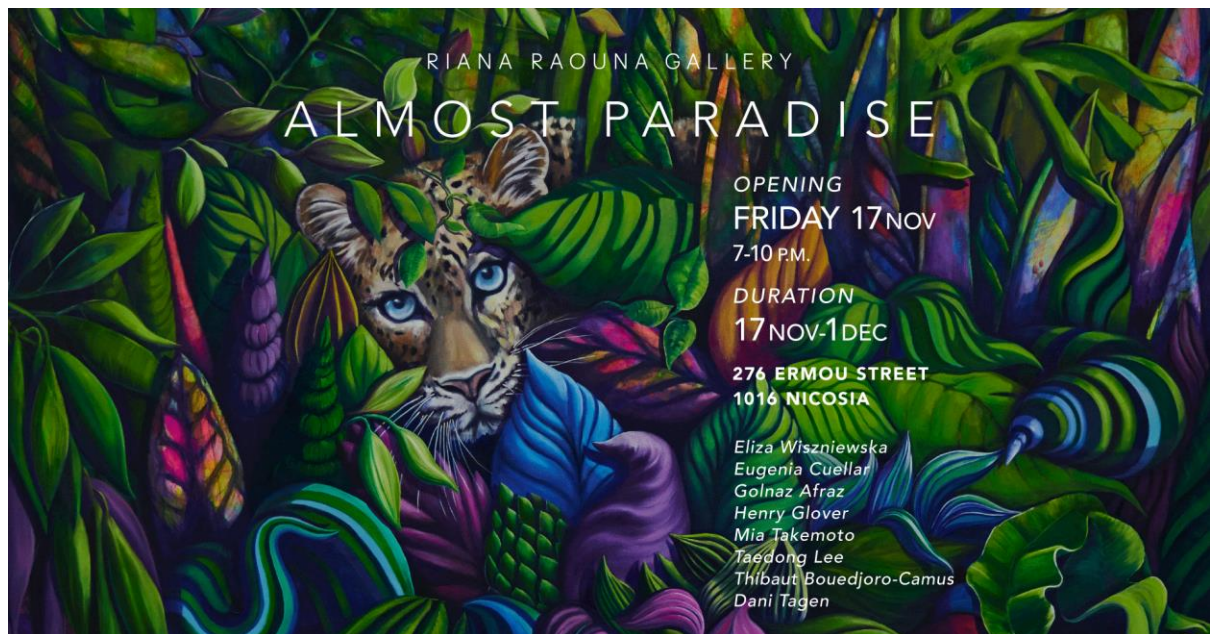


PRESS RELEASE**RIANA RAOUNA Gallery presents the exhibition *ALMOST PARADISE*****with 8 artists from the international art scene**

RIANA RAOUNA Gallery is pleased to present *ALMOST PARADISE*, a group exhibition with eight (8) contemporary artists from the international art scene. The exhibition takes place between 17 November and 1 December, at 276 Ermou Street, 1016 Nicosia.

The exhibiting artists are: **Eliza Wiszniewska** (Poland/Germany), **Eugenia Cuellar** (Spain), **Golnaz Afraz** (Iran/France), **Henry Glover** (UK), **Mia Takemoto** (Scotland/Japan), **Taedong Lee** (South Korea), **Thibaut Bouedjoro-Camus** (France) and **Dani Tagen** (Brazil/UK).

Through 19 paintings and a sound piece, *ALMOST PARADISE* aims to highlight the unmistakable beauty of nature which is presented as an extension of our own selves. In a world increasingly consumed with immense challenges, the exhibition attempts to evoke a

sense of delight, wonder and inspiration through the abundant beauty of the landscape, plants, flowers and wild animals.

Each exhibiting artist explores the visual and conceptual representation of the natural world through a different lens. **Eugenia Cuellar** turns her attention to luxurious settings and exotic landscapes which provide a psychological oasis and avail a sense of escapism from the worries of contemporary life. **Eliza Wiszniewska** explores the role of nature as a healer and a home, inviting the viewer to surrender in the enchanting realm of plants, flowers and wild animals. In the expressive paintings of **Golnaz Afraz**, plants and flowers symbolise a refuge for humans while at the same time, symbolizing the eternal continuation of life. **Henry Glover** and **Taedong Lee** capture the poetic beauty of the landscape and draw their attention to the potential of the landscape to reflect the vast span of memory, emotions and inner experience. As a British-Japanese artist, born in Australia and currently living between Scotland and Japan, **Mia Takemoto** explores the notion of identity as being formed by the individual's movement and multiple displacement rather than being focused on the binary idea of "homeland". **Thibaut Bouedjoro-Camus** investigates the inseparable relationship between humans and nature merging realism and symbolism in his paintings. The sensory experience of the viewers is further enhanced by a sound piece by **Dani Tagen**, which evokes a deep sense of longing and tranquillity through sounds of nature and the artist's voice.

Opening: Friday, 17 November, 7-10 pm

Duration: 17 November – 1 December 2023, Monday-Sunday, 10 am - 2 pm & 3 – 7 pm

Address: 276 Ermou Street, 1016 Nicosia (opposite the Centre of Visual Arts & Research – Costas & Rita Severis Foundation)

For more information, please contact +357 22 462888, info@rianaraouna.com or visit www.rianaraouna.com.

About the Gallery: RIANA RAOUNA was founded by Riana Raouna, who is a Contemporary Art Specialist and a Distinction holder of an MA in Contemporary Art from Sotheby's Institute of Art, London. The gallery features paintings by emerging contemporary artists, who represent some of the most promising talents in the international art scene. The gallery operates online at www.rianaraouna.com and presents physical exhibitions on a regular basis, aiming to provide access to highly desirable artworks without any geographical barriers.