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Tuesday, March 20 - Saturday, April 14 | Opening Reception: Saturday, March 24, 5-8 p.m.  
Artist Talk: Saturday, April 7, 3 p.m.

***Claudia Kim – Ripple***

Living in a scenic area, Claudia Kim could see and experience the ocean and the mountains daily. She could sense and hear the surf and the wind. She always wondered what was beyond the sea. What kind of world was under the sea? What did it look like? What causes a ripple in the water? Those curiosities fueled the motivation for her paintings, *Ripple*, a depiction of conflict intermingling with harmony.

Using a process of attachment, Kim peels different layers of paint and materials. This repetitive process creates depth and abstract shapes in her paintings. The compositions may appear to be random, but each line, shape, and color is balanced against a corresponding one to form a tapestry whose expression is calibrated and intense. To her, beauty is not always harmonious shapes pieced together, but set against turbulent, uncertain backgrounds. Its structure is often tenuous and secular. Despite conflicting forces, her paintings show the ripples of life's pain and struggles revealing its hidden glory.

Kim's paintings help us to understand what it means to be an individual with its trials, tribulations, sorrows, and successes. Her works invites us to explore and search our own souls. It reconciles despair with hope, doubt with faith, darkness with light, and grief with joy. Because life is precious, we must embrace the moments of peace and live life to its fullest each day.

Kim's paintings present the ever changing and complex nature of life from childhood to adulthood. Despite the pain, grief, and heartache she has experienced in her life's journey, her paintings have become her rhythm and language sending forth a ripple of hope for all to experience.

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***NELA – Paintings***

TAG Gallery is proud to present *Paintings*, the inaugural exhibition of Yugoslav-born visual artist and educator NELA. Comprised of water media work on Yupo Paper, NELA's paintings are archived in various series and groupings, all inspired by different facets of the human psyche and imagination.

Groupings vary from raw, emotional, and meditative to distorted twisted realities that subvert their source inspiration. NELA melds her particular cultural sensibility with thoughts and events of a contemporary nature. As a stark contrast to her often-crude subject matters, NELA uses a sleek, new age type of painting surface, Yupo Paper. As such, uncommon swirling textures fill her canvas, leading the viewer through a visual journey, narrated by the drips and brush strokes that fill the paper.

These works aim to celebrate the marriage of the elusive and unpredictability of Yupo Paper with water-based media, effectively mirroring the artist's philosophies and her ever-changing, living spirit.

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***Daniel Rutkowski – Strange Flora: A Foray Into Romance & the LED Dream***

TAG Gallery is proud to host Daniel Rutkowski's series "Strange Flora: A Foray into Romance & the LED Dream." The photographic series guides the onlooker down a cerebral odyssey where the concepts of our gorgeous, palpable, & fragile world merges with the strange digital flamboyance of our screens; the death of romance, as told through pixels of our world's flora.

In a strange and surreal foray, technology and digitalization has truly infected and encapsulated our modern lives to a frightening extent. Like shadow to light, and ying to yang, it comes in two disparate forms: The good and the bad. With newfound eases and rapid-fire knowledge, this computerized realm has the ability to provide wisdom in a fraction of a moment while able to heal, teach, inspire, and connect. It has the potential to sow and reap the greatest of all human cognition in the world... but under the beauty and unyielding strengths, comes another world: a world that holds its fair share of poisons in the form of pixels so utterly intriguing and distracting that we lose place in our own palpable existence.

A form of absurd hand-held escapism, this LED facade allows for a window into a world where nothing can come close enough to harm or love you, where there is safety in the fact that the window remains closed. Where human interaction, genuine social awareness, and love doesn't exist.

