

## **HIDDEN EDEN x A musical short film and art zine by Lush Agave & Wild Anima**

press text

*Lush Agave; Photo: Alex Alexopoulos*



This project bloomed during an art residency in Iceland, sparked by conversations around our shared philosophies on voice and emotional connection. We spent months writing long emails to each other about how our emotions show up in our creative practices.

Through these exchanges, we unveiled the term “The Ecology of Emotions”. Our reflections on this concept became the narrations of 6 short abstract sonnets within an experimental short film, surrounded by four music videos from our respective musical projects. The film is accompanied by a zine containing our discussions on the topic and images from our journey through Iceland.

Hidden Eden is a metaphor for our inner secret garden of creativity. The nature of Iceland inspired us to make the connection on how the landscape reflects our emotional states in our creativity and how it takes part in managing homeostasis of our inner emotional landscapes. This exchange between emotion and the landscape opens a space for healing. Creativity provides us with the tools to access a garden of our authentic being, nourishing and balancing us.

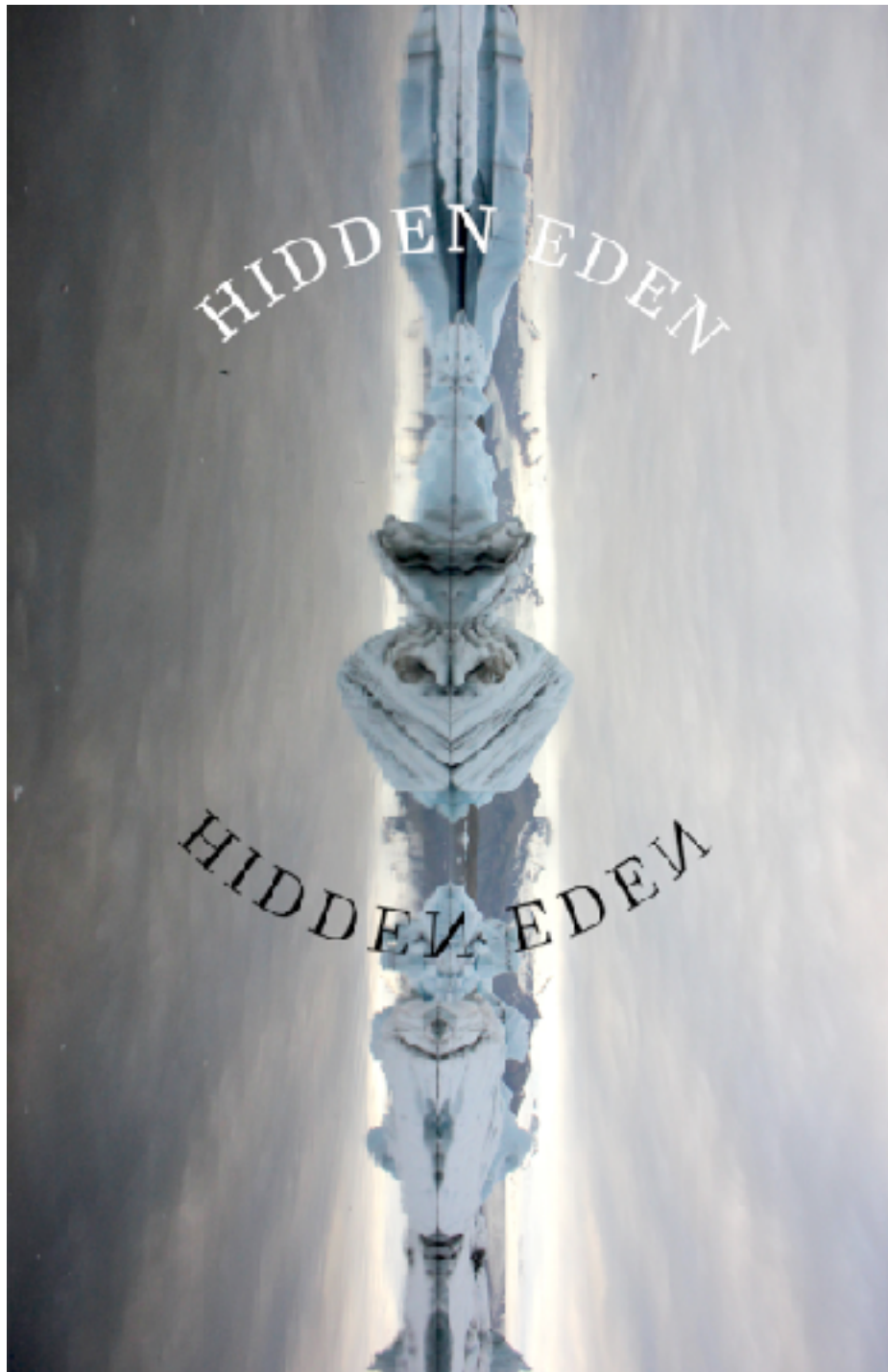
Allowing ourselves to explore the spectrum of our emotions through the lens of our relationship with the Earth invites others to do the same. The creative process can affect our well being and is a key to human evolution.

Both the beauty and challenge of this project was that we were collaborating about 3 years in a number of different locations, in between Orlando, Berlin, and eventually Los Angeles. Creating from all these different spaces influenced our narrative about land appreciation in the film. We were able to meet in person in L.A. at the start of 2020. This was before all the covid lockdowns.

In the spirit of this film, we also want to acknowledge that its concepts are core beliefs of Indigenous communities. Our work serves to echo their calls for climate justice. Tending to our authentic self illustrates these duties of stewardship to our land and water. Creative practice serves as an additional pathway for healing ourselves, our communities, and the earth.

*Wild Anima; Photo: Alisha Erao*





*Design: Cody Sarabia, Photo: Wild Anima; Editing: Math Erao;*

## HIDDEN EDEN musical short film description

Release date: March 19th 2021, via Sacred Sea records (Berlin, DE) & Never Content (Los Angeles, CA)

### SYNOPSIS

Exploring the concept of the Ecology of Emotions, this poetic musical art film portrays an inner journey through the secret garden of creativity put into frame by the nature of Iceland.

### DIRECTORS BIOGRAPHY

Musicians Wild Anima (Berlin, DE) and Lush Agave (Los Angeles, CA) met in 2017 during a tour in Florida through the former Elestial Sound collective. Their music can be described as ethereal art pop. Their love for nature, the psyche and the inner emotional landscapes lead them to create and unveil together the concept of the Ecology of Emotions.

Ten part musical short film including four original music videos with six abstract snippets :

- 1 - Hidden Eden
- 2 - Seal Woman
- 3 - Lush Agave - Mono no Aware (music video)
- 4 - Priestess
- 5 - Wild Anima - Wave upon wave (music video)
- 6 - Earth Witches
- 7 - Wild Anima - My Earth is Beating (music video)
- 8 - Our Shadows
- 9 - Lush Agave - Harlot (music video)
- 10 - Returning Home



## Lush Agave (Los Angeles, CA)



*“Live performance informs a lot of how I write music. I want to create a musical journey that is palpable, accessible, and non-hierarchical in our exchange. Perfectionism conflicts with my philosophy of singing and art as a whole, so performance is a loving challenge I present to grow closer to my authentic self. I believe deeply in the importance of connecting with our unique creativity, and that everyone should feel empowered to do so. Art is a tool for exploring our complex nature and leaving an imprint on the world and our communities. My music is a space where I can bare my soul and invite others to do the same in the hopes that this shared vulnerability will lead us to better worlds.*

*My passion for singing opera always felt in direct conflict with its elitist culture. Lush Agave has provided a medium for sharing elements of classical vocal music in places like dive bars and DIY venues. It has felt like an opportunity to reclaim music that was largely created by white, cis men and dismantle the historically classist and racist structures that prevented people from interacting with it. Capitalist culture makes us feel that our art is only valuable when it is packaged and monetized. I believe that our connection to nature makes it easier to realize this illusion and is a reminder that creativity is a natural part of us. Creative practice tends to our emotions and heals us. It urges reciprocity, reminding us of our responsibility to take part in healing our external world. We sometimes lose the feeling of autonomy within the music industry “strategies.” The impacts of COVID really brought into focus that we have the ability to rebuild things to serve artists better.”*

*- Lush Agave*

## Wild Anima (Berlin, DE)



*“Playing shows in front of an audience to me is a way to honor and set a sacred space for things to be transformed and integrated, it brings us into an inner process of listening and being present but collectively. There is a different language that appears, a communion that interacts in between us. I like to use the word “artivism” that I first heard from my friend, Indian painter Priyadarshini Ohol. To me, activism needs to happen on a daily basis and primarily with the people that are around you. That is where it starts, and intertwining this with art can be a powerful way to bring change in the world. I feel like acting is much more efficient than speaking, and embodying what I value most is an essential part in manifesting change.*

*When we are able to act on our beliefs this inspires others to do the same and that is what the ecology of emotions is truly about. As a teenager I was very influenced by the concept of self sufficiency but quickly realised that this had to happen in ourselves first. And the way to change the dynamics in our society first needs to happen on an emotional level, we need to educate ourselves on the way we process our emotional “garbage” because I feel that this is one of the main causes the problems we encounter when we interact with each other. Throughout my life experiences I came to realise that caring for others has a major role in the harmony and balance not only in ourselves but in society as a whole. And by embodying this we can show others and pave the way towards a different paradigm, where we are tuned into our environment and can truly live in a harmonious way in ourselves and as a community, accepting our lights and shadows and allowing them to exist as well as honouring the teachings and gifts those can bring.”*

*- Wild Anima*

## **FILM CREDITS**

### *Film*

written, directed and filmed by Lush Agave & Wild Anima  
edited by Lush Agave; additional editor by Margo Sanda

### *Creative planning & Art direction team*

Margo Sanda: <https://www.margosanda.com/>

Kriss Sagan: <https://sagankriss.com/>

### *Post Production*

Colorists Math Erao & Margo Sanda

### *Music*

Lush Agave: “Mono No Aware” & “Harlot”

Songs for a Moon (2019)

Wild Anima “Wave Upon Wave” ; “My Earth is Beating”;  
“Give it All (instrumental)”

### *Sound Design*

Wild Anima

### *Narration*

Wild Anima & Lush Agave

### *Script*

Wild Anima

### *Mixing & Mastering*

Adam McDaniel; Drop of Sun Studios (Asheville, NC)

<https://www.dropofsun.com/>

Mastering for Lush Agave tracks “Harlot” & “Mono no Aware”

Valgeir Sigurðsson <https://valgeir.net/>

## **ZINE CREDITS**

design by Cody Sarabia

original concepts and text by Alisha Erao & Alex Alexopoulos

compiled and written by Alex Alexopoulos

copy editing by Math & Alisha Earo

## **LINKS**

*HIDDEN EDEN* - Art Zine, Film & Soundtrack

### **labels**

Scared Sea records - E.U. orders:

<https://sacredsearecords.bandcamp.com/album/hidden-edén>

Web: <https://www.sacredsearecords.com/>

Contact: [wearesacredsea@gmail.com](mailto:wearesacredsea@gmail.com)

Never Content - U.S. orders:

<https://becomecontent.bandcamp.com/>

Web: <https://nevercontent.org/>

### **artists**

*LUSH AGAVE*

Bandcamp: <https://lushagave.bandcamp.com/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/lushagave/>

Web: <https://lushagave.com/>

Songs for a Moon ep, 2019:

<https://becomecontent.bandcamp.com/album/songs-for-a-moon>

Contact: <https://lushagave.com/contact>

*WILD ANIMA*

Bandcamp: [https://wildanima.bandcamp.com/follow\\_me](https://wildanima.bandcamp.com/follow_me)

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/wildanimamusic/>

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