



SONNY BEHAN

MULTIDISCIPLINARY ARTIST
MURALS | PAINTING | SCULPTURE



BIOGRAPHY

Sonny Behan, also known as Sonny Sundancer, is an acclaimed artist renowned for his magnificent large-scale wildlife murals and intricately detailed oil paintings. His art, which seamlessly blends realism with abstraction, can be found in galleries and streets worldwide, from South Africa to New York. His bold use of color and dynamic compositions capture the movement of the animals he brings to life.

Born in the UK, Sonny was raised in South Africa from the age of ten, a

time that sparked his passion for wildlife. His global mural tour and solo exhibition in New York in 2018 marked the beginning of a meteoric rise, leading to an increasing demand for his art.

Now based out of Miami, Sonny has expanded his artistic repertoire to include intricate bronze sculptures, including a large-scale public sculpture at the United Nations HQ in NYC.





CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIPS

PAINTING A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR ENDANGERED WILDLIFE

Sonny's passion for using his creativity to highlight the need to protect and preserve the natural world has earned him the reputation of being an artist who is deeply engaged and driven to make an impact. To this end, he has collaborated with prominent non-profits and organizations, such as World Wildlife Fund, United Nations, UNICEF, IFAW, Global Citizen and Discovery Inc., to create public art installations and campaigns to raise funds and awareness for conservation efforts.



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



CAREER HIGHLIGHTS



GLOBAL, 2017

GLOBAL MURAL TOUR FOR WILDLIFE

In 2017 Sonny launched his To The Bone project with a global mural tour that brought some of the world's most iconic and endangered animals into urban environments around the world. He painted ten large-scale murals of endangered species in seven countries from New York to Vladivostok, Johannesburg to London.



NYC, 2018 & 2021

SPEAKER & ADVOCATE AT UNITED NATIONS

Sonny has twice had the honour of speaking at the world's most prestigious international organization; the United Nations. In 2018 he participated in their Earth Day panel to highlight the powerful ways young people are using creativity and innovation to protect our environment. In 2021 he was involved in a discussion around big cats as part of the UN General Assembly SDG Media Zone.



NYC, 2018

SOLO EXHIBITION IN MANHATTAN

Sonny's first and highly-anticipated solo exhibition of his canvas work, along with a series of hand-painted skull sculptures. The sell-out show explored the precarious balancing act that exists between mankind and the animal kingdom. The exhibition had a fantastic turnout with people queuing around the block to attend the opening evening.



NYC, 2021

MONUMENT AT UNITED NATIONS

Together with Discovery, Sonny unveiled a large-scale bronze tiger statue at the United Nations headquarters in New York to celebrate tigers and raise awareness for endangered species ahead of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly. The sculpture, also draws attention to the UN's Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.



NYC, 2021

CLOSING THE STOCK EXCHANGE IN NYC

Sonny was invited to the Nasdaq MarketSite in Times Square to ring the closing bell in honor of the unveiling of his tiger statue at the United Nations, and to celebrate tiger conservation successes around the globe, including efforts by Discovery's Project CAT. His tiger statue was also showcased on the seven-stories-tall Nasdaq tower screened onto its 10,000 square foot billboard



HOUSTON, 2022

10,000 SQFT MURAL FOR THE UN SDG'S

Sonny was commissioned to paint a 10,000 sq ft mural (his largest to date) as part of the Houston Big Art Bigger Change project in partnership with Downtown Houston. The project aimed to amplify awareness on social and environmental issues inspired by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

IN THE NEWS



SUNDAY TIMES

THE BIG FIVE JUST GOT BIGGER

Meet the artist with a game plan for the world

I was invited to paint the lion in New York City last week. As the temperature dropped, so did Sonny. The painters just saw me on the top of a building on the Lower East Side high above Allen Street, the Bronx, South Africa raised street artist dropped over at his paintbrush. I'm in a crowd of 500 as a lion and lion. Months later he is in a series of paintings.

Sonny is doing in collaboration with the International Fund for Animal Welfare. Collectively called The Big Five, the images will be painted on buildings in different parts of the world to draw attention to animals and their habitats. Sonny is a graffiti artist and painter. He will paint a lion in London's art scene.



Sonny makes a lion mark

used back in a movie proposal. He was 20 when he moved with his parents from Manhattan to South Africa. "I remember looking out the window as we landed and thinking there were going to be Chevrolet and a lot of animals in the rooming," he laughs. "The immediate trip to the Finger National Park and seeing the Big Five for the first time in the wild. It seemed like to see him moving away it's hard to figure out his high-profile connection with the lion."

"This shaped his belief that the world of animals is intrinsically tied to our own ability to live, and he's been looking for ways to bring a green attention through his art."

LinkUp - 23-08-2017 - Shiny Stars



BUZZFEED

This Street Artist Pain...
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CLOSING THE MARKETS
NASDAQ NYC

Nasdaq



FORBES

FOX 5 News Weather Good Day NY Contests

Street artist Sonny set for first gallery exhibit

f t e



Rooftop mural New York Lion

FOX5



TIMES SQUARE, NYC

Nasdaq

Forbes



BuzzFeedNEWS

HUFFPOST

Sunday Times

The Guardian

NEW YORK POST

EXAMPLES OF SCULPTURAL WORK

In 2021 Sonny unveiled a large-scale (10ft) public sculpture at the United Nations Headquarters in NYC during the UN General Assembly in partnership with Discovery Inc. to bring attention to the plight of wild tigers.

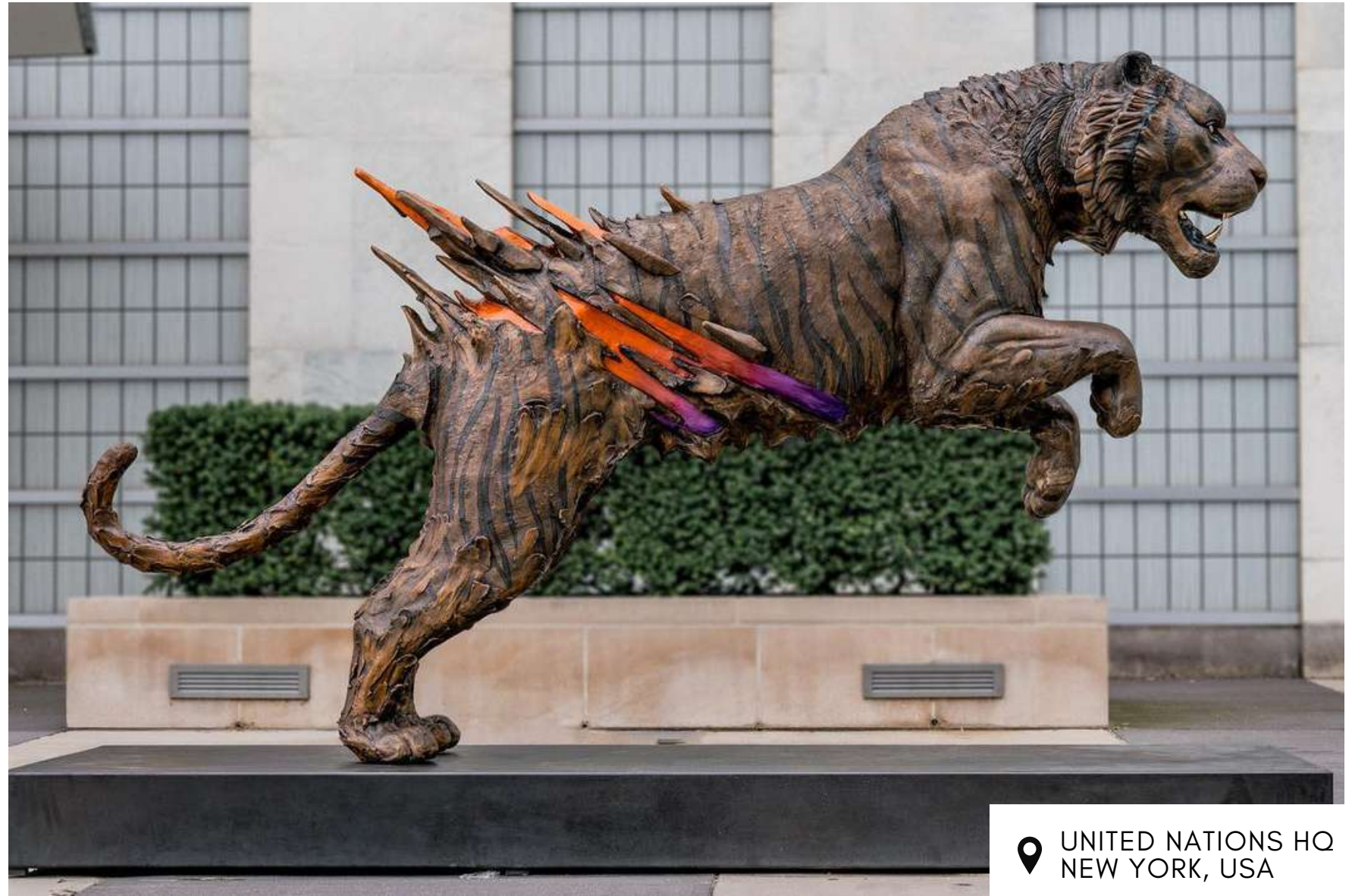


'Abhaya'

Bronze

L - 114" x H 61" x D 38"

GIFT OF LUXEMBOURG
1988

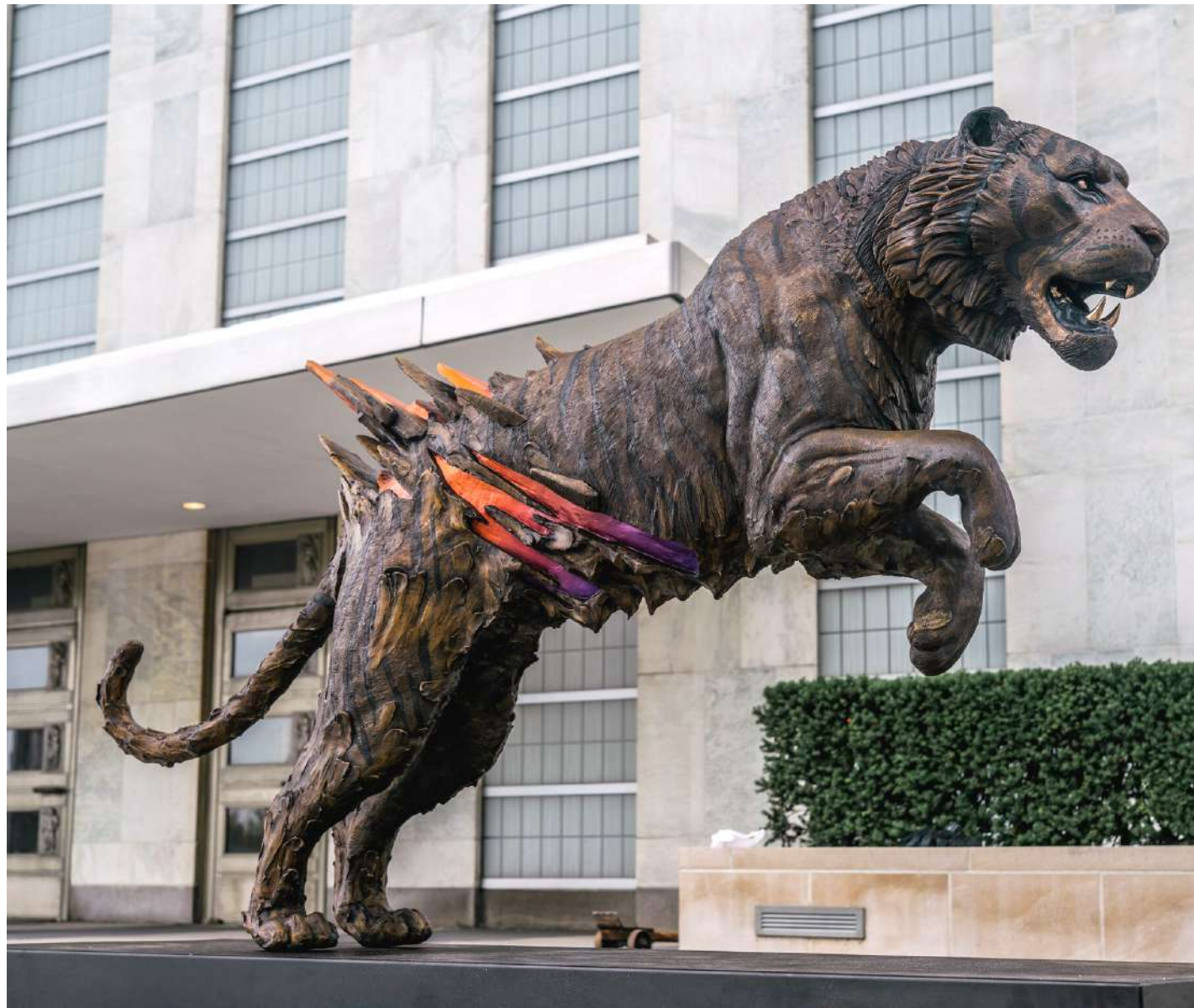


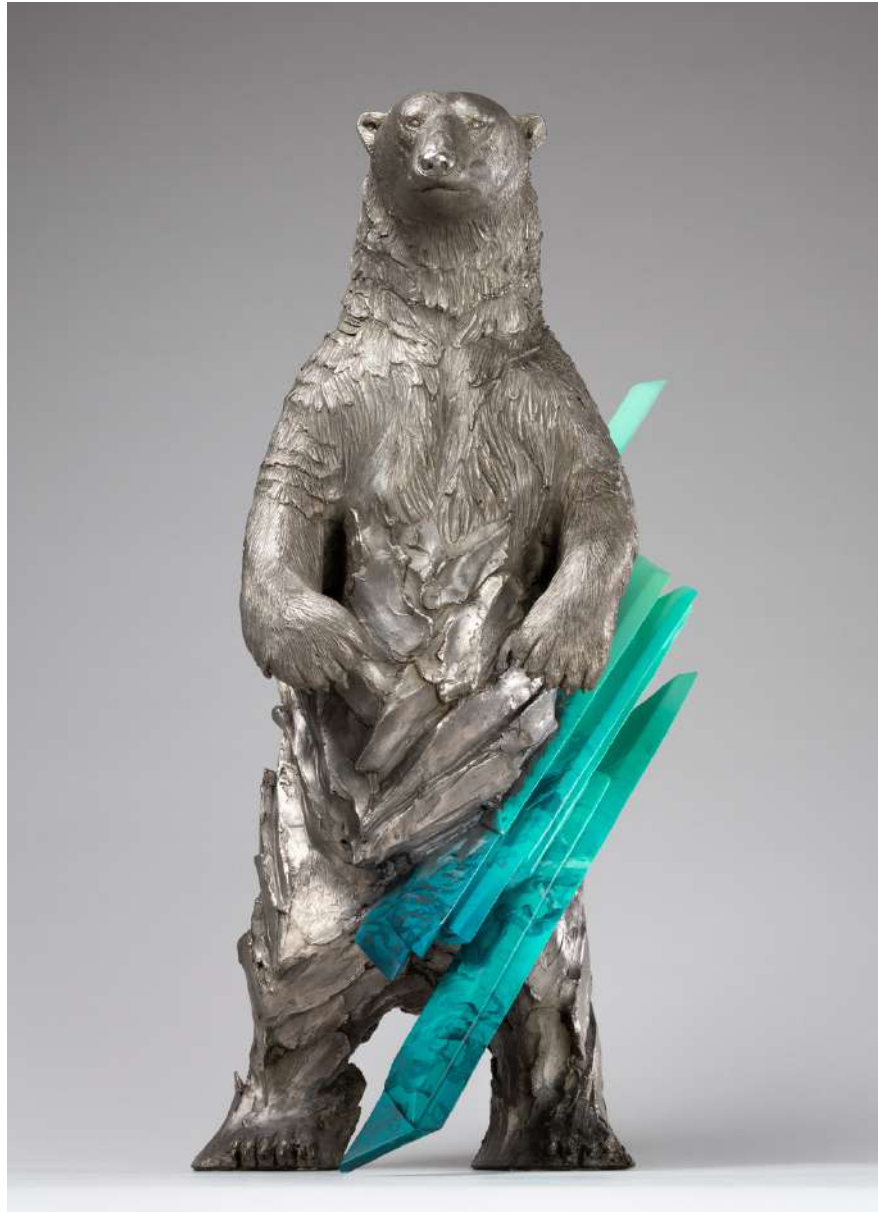
📍 UNITED NATIONS HQ
NEW YORK, USA



On September 20 2021, Sonny Behan together with Discovery, unveiled a large-scale bronze tiger statue at the United Nations (UN) headquarters in New York to celebrate tigers and raise awareness for endangered species ahead of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly. The sculpture, placed at the entrance of the UN Plaza next to the renowned 'Non-Violence' sculpture, also draws attention to the UN's Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, a call for the protection and revival of ecosystems around the world for the benefit of people and nature.

This public artwork was created in collaboration with Discovery's Project C.A.T. campaign, launched in partnership with World Wildlife Fund (WWF), which supports nearly six million acres of tiger habitat across India, Bhutan and Russia. The ambitious project took over a year to bring to life, from conceptualisation to installation and was publicly unveiled at the iconic bell ringing ceremony to close the markets at the Nasdaq Market Site in Times Square.





'Terra'

Bronze

H - 6.6" x W - 14.1" x D - 8.5"





'Savanna'
Bronze
H - 16" x W - 19" x D - 9"

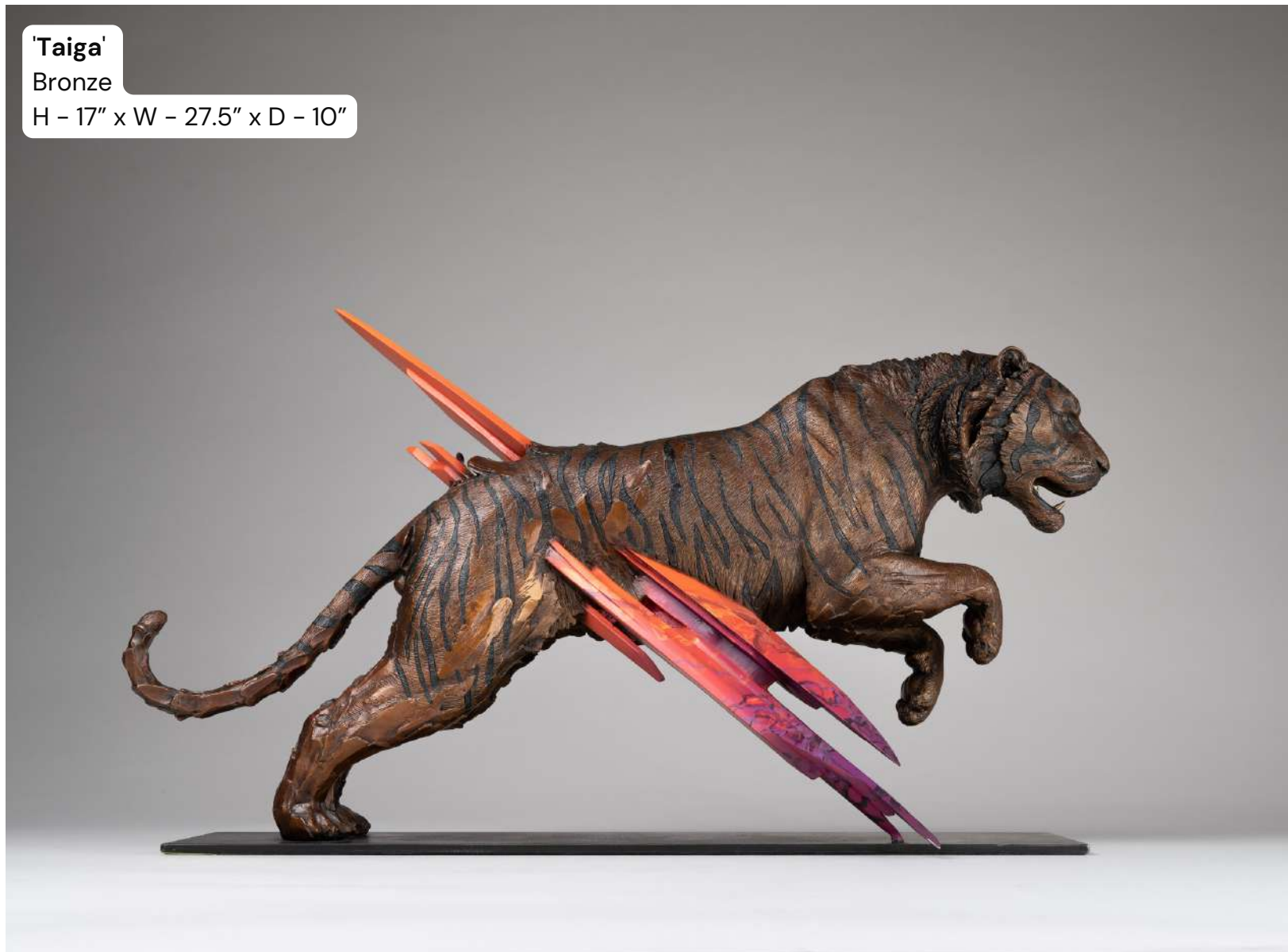




'Taiga'

Bronze

H - 17" x W - 27.5" x D - 10"



'Tundra'

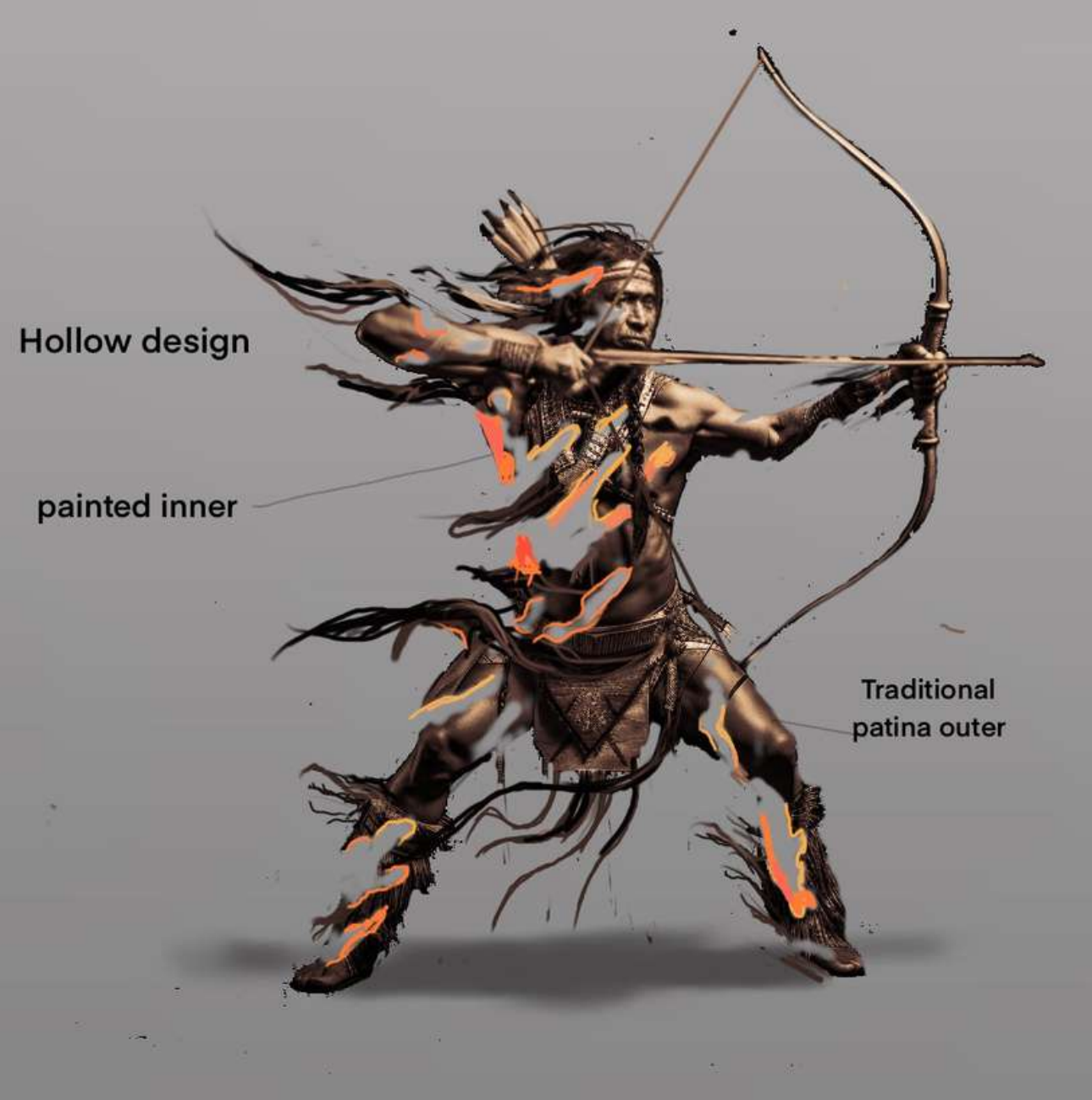
Bronze

H - 9.5" x W - 14" x D - 7"

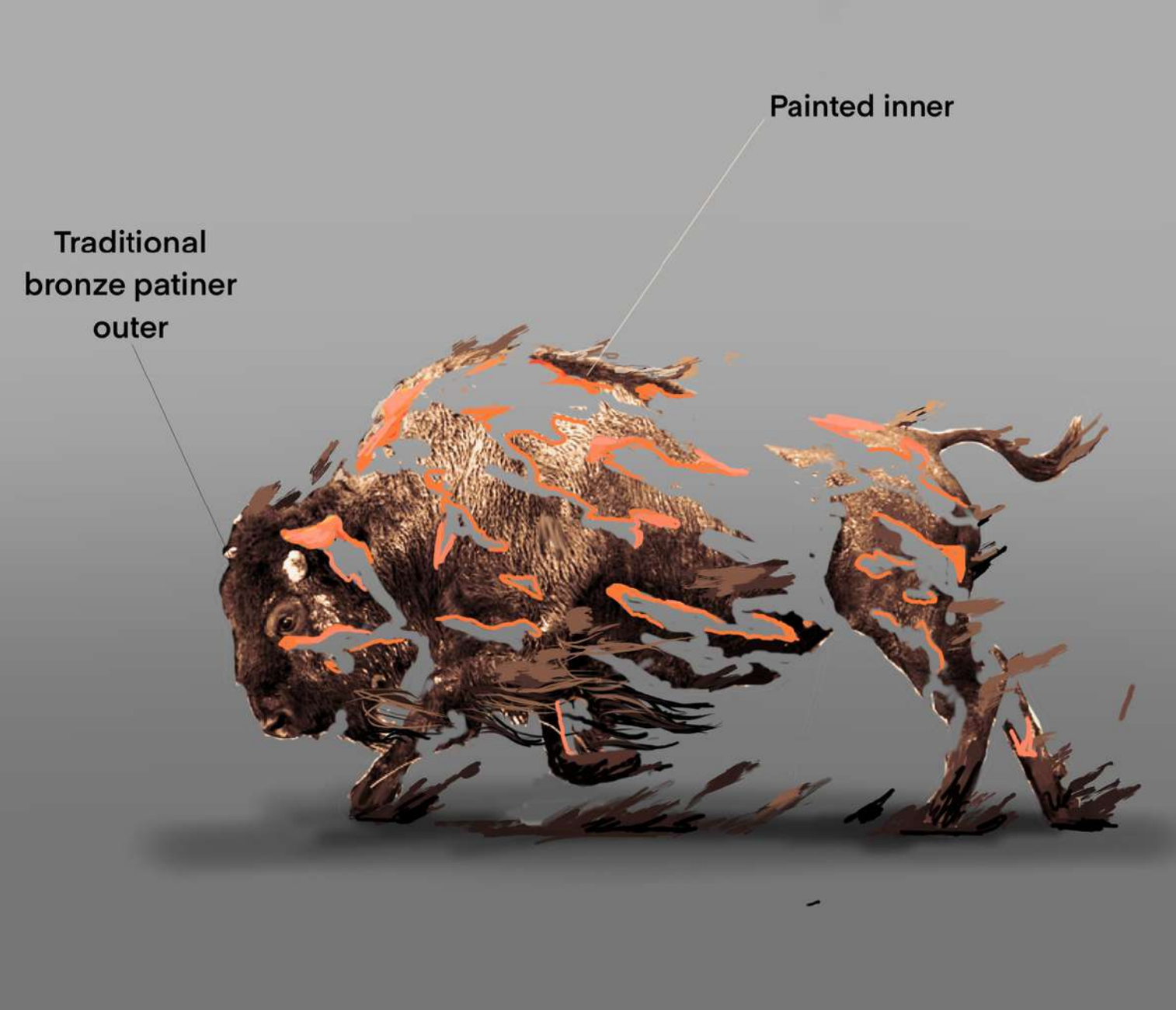


CONCEPTUAL IDEAS FOR WYLIE SCULPTURES





- **Interactive Sculptures:** The concept involves two sculptures that interact with each other in a meaningful way.
- **Caddo Tribesman in Action:** The primary focus of one sculpture is a life-sized Caddo tribesman in the midst of shooting his bow. The sculpture aims to capture the essence of strength, artistry, innovation, focus, and grace inherent in the Caddo culture.
- **Elements of Motion:** Both sculptures incorporate elements that convey a sense of movement, including details such as flowing hair, billowing clothing, and scattered dirt.
- **Fragmented Hollow Design:** A distinctive feature of both sculptures is their hollow, fragmented design, with approximately 50% to 60% of the structure intentionally missing. Despite this, the complete forms are still recognizable.
- **Traditional Exterior Patina:** The exterior of both sculptures is adorned with traditional patina, adding depth and character to their appearance.
- **Internal Color Sand Patterns:** On the inside, both sculptures are painted with vibrant color patterns that represent the Caddo tribe, adding cultural significance to the artworks as well as a contemporary flair.



- **Dynamic Bison Sculpture:** The second sculpture portrays a life-sized bison in action, running through a cloud of dust. This depiction emphasizes the bison's powerful and graceful attributes, creating a sense of speed and vigor.
- **Frozen in Time:** These sculptures are designed to freeze a moment in time, capturing a memory as it forms, encapsulating the essence of a particular moment in history.
- **Appearance and Disappearance:** The sculptures create a captivating illusion of both appearing and disappearing, generating a sense of constant movement and change.
- **Spatial Interaction:** Although set far apart from each other, the sculptures are strategically placed to interact visually from a distance, forming a harmonious composition and allowing viewers an educational experience.
- **Illusory Movement:** The combination of hollow elements, fragmented design, and internal colors creates an optical effect where the sculptures appear to move and change as viewers walk around them, especially as lighting conditions shift.

FEASIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS

Hollowness for Budget Constraints: Careful consideration must be given to the degree of hollowness to ensure that the sculptures remain life-sized while staying within the budgetary constraints.

Low Ground Mounting for Realism and Cost Efficiency: Suggesting low-to-the-ground mounting not only enhances the sculptures' realism but also reduces the costs associated with base plinths and installation.

Prioritizing Safety: It is crucial to design the sculptures with safety in mind, avoiding sharp edges or protruding pieces that could pose a risk to viewers or maintenance personnel.

Dual Budgets for Cost Reduction: Combining the budgets for each sculpture could potentially lead to reduced costs in fabrication, shipping, installation, engineering, and other associated expenses. This approach may provide more flexibility and efficiency in managing the project without sacrificing in scale and impact.



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