



SONNY
"SUNDANCER"
BEHAN
MULTIDISCIPLINARY ARTIST



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.

Since then 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

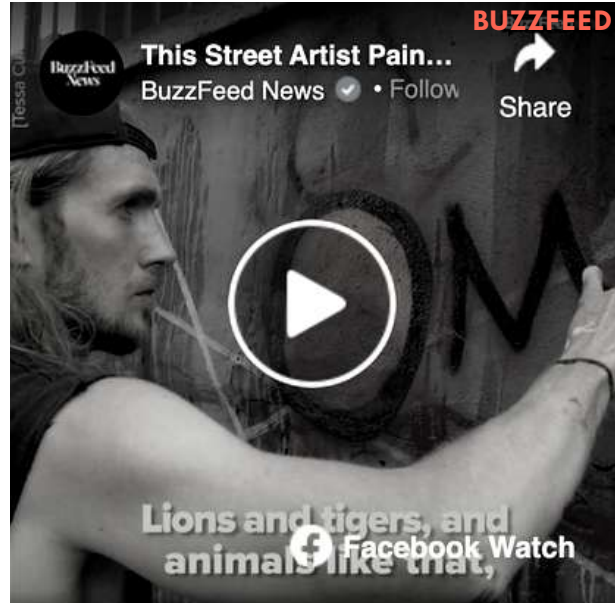


HOUSTON, 2022

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



PUBLIC ART

A SELECTION OF SONNY'S MURALS
FROM AROUND THE WORLD





HOUSTON, TX



FIGHT OR FLIGHT

36m x 28m Outdoor Mural
Houston, Texas



ATLANTA, USA

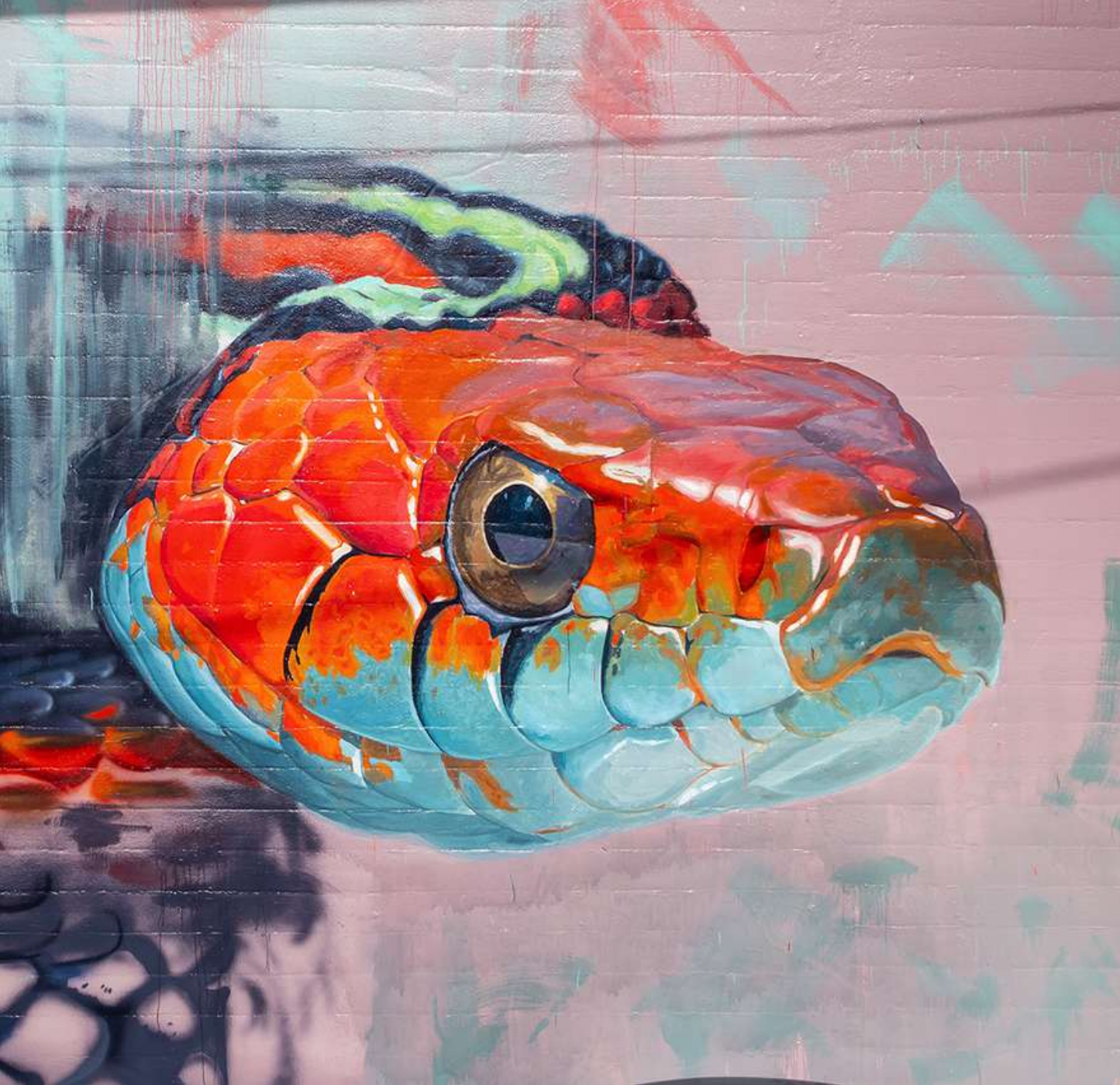


NEW YORK, USA

AUTHORITARIAN
PARKING
- ONLY
BETWEEN
THESE SIGNS



OSDNYSLANDWALKER



TIPPING THE SCALES

8m x 28m outdoor mural
Emeryville, California





BAIHU

9m x 9m outdoor mural



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DISTR
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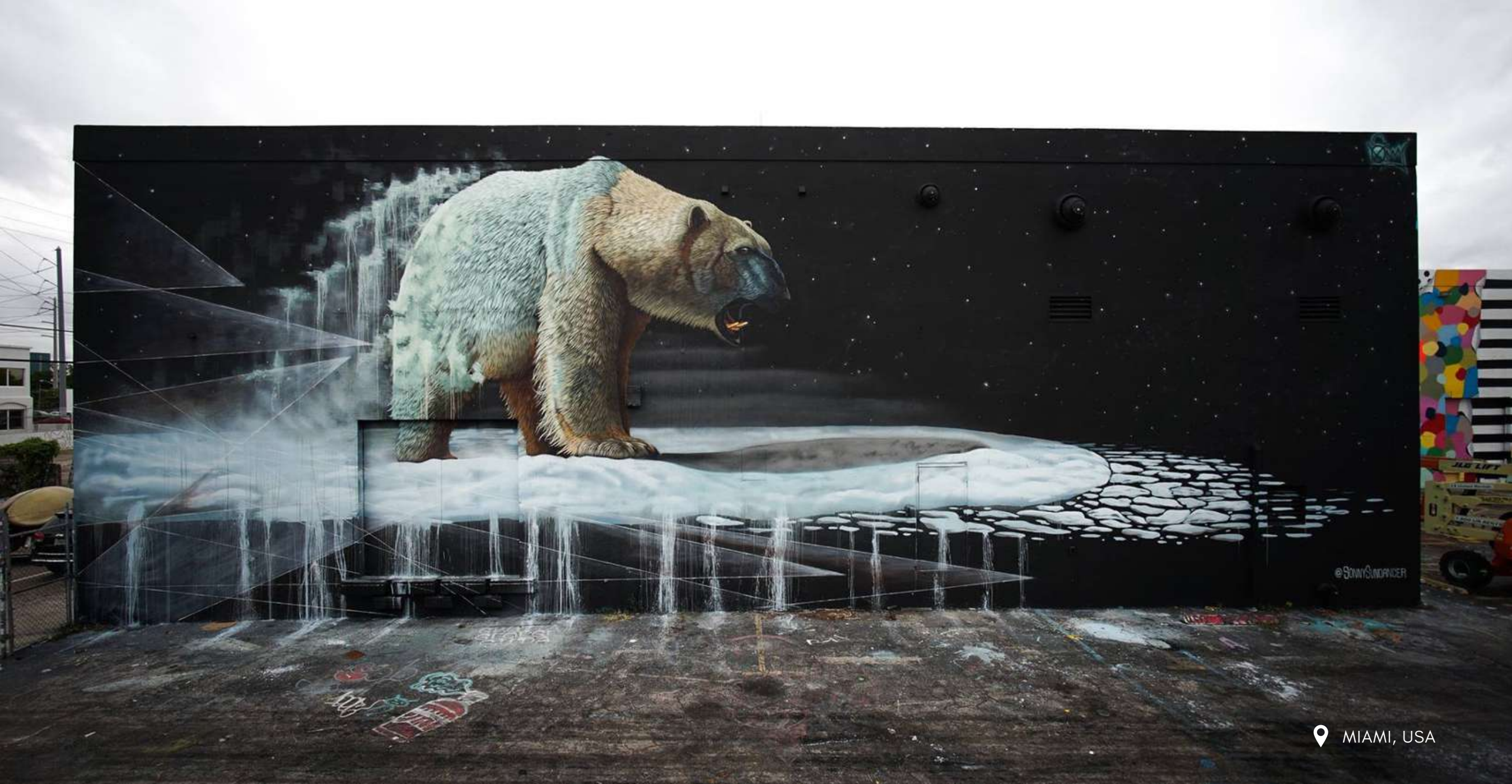
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R
NO PARKING
EXCEPT TO LOAD
UNLOAD PASSENGERS
OR MERCHANDISE



📍 JOHANNESBURG, RSA



📍 LONDON, UK





NANUK

(Inuit name that means "animal worthy of great respect")

10m x 26m outdoor mural
Miami, USA



NEW YORK, USA



MIAMI, USA



GISBORNE, NZ

MONUMENTAL SCULPTURE

Sonny's large-scale bronze sculpture created in collaboration with Discovery, Inc. was unveiled at the United Nations Headquarters in New York in order to bring attention to the plight of tigers in the wild. The tiger statue was unveiled ahead of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly and was placed at the entrance of the United Nations plaza, next to the renowned 'Non-Violence' sculpture. The 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.

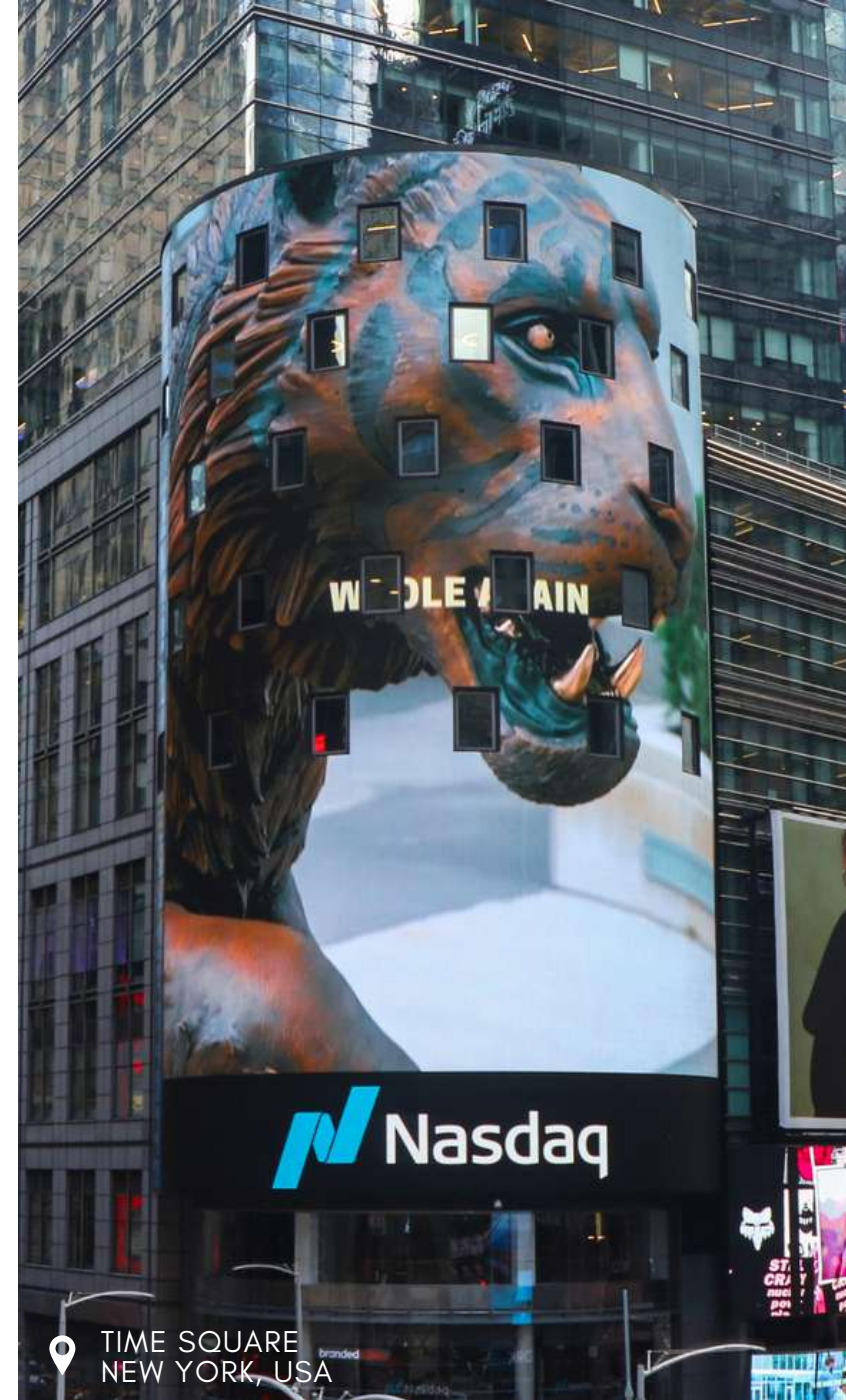


GIFT OF LUXEMBOURG
1988

📍 UNITED NATIONS HQ
NEW YORK, USA



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 further recognized at the iconic bell ringing ceremony where Sonny, together with Discovery Inc., closed the markets at the Nasdaq MarketSite in Times Square as the sculpture was live streamed on their seven-stories-tall billboard.



📍 TIME SQUARE
NEW YORK, USA



ABHAYA

A SANSKRIT WORD MEANING 'FEARLESS'

BRONZE

Sculpted and hand-painted by Sonny

Edition of 8

155cm H x 290cm W x 96.5cm D

833.3lbs/378kg

“Representing the resilience of nature and humanity, ‘Abhaya’ (fearlessness) is a celebration of the color these animals bring to our world. In such challenging times, we can all draw inspiration from the tiger, a universal symbol of courage and strength.”

After a century of decline, wild tiger numbers are starting to increase. Yet, it’s important to remember that threats to tigers are ever present. This is why the tiger is depicted in motion, jumping forward into the future; a future that relies so heavily on the actions we take today. I’m honored to bring one of these iconic big cats to the United Nations and hope that it will serve as a reminder of the importance of protecting and conserving, not only tigers, but all wildlife across the globe.”



TO THE BONE

NYC EXHIBITION

As a culmination of Sonny's global mural tour to raise awareness for endangered animals, his highly-anticipated solo exhibition took place in New York in 2018. The sellout show, *To The Bone*, explored the precarious balancing act that exists between mankind and the animal kingdom and was made up of a series of paintings of endangered species from around the world.



TO THE BONE
MAY 17 18 19



RETAIL SPACE

X27
X28



STUDIO WORK

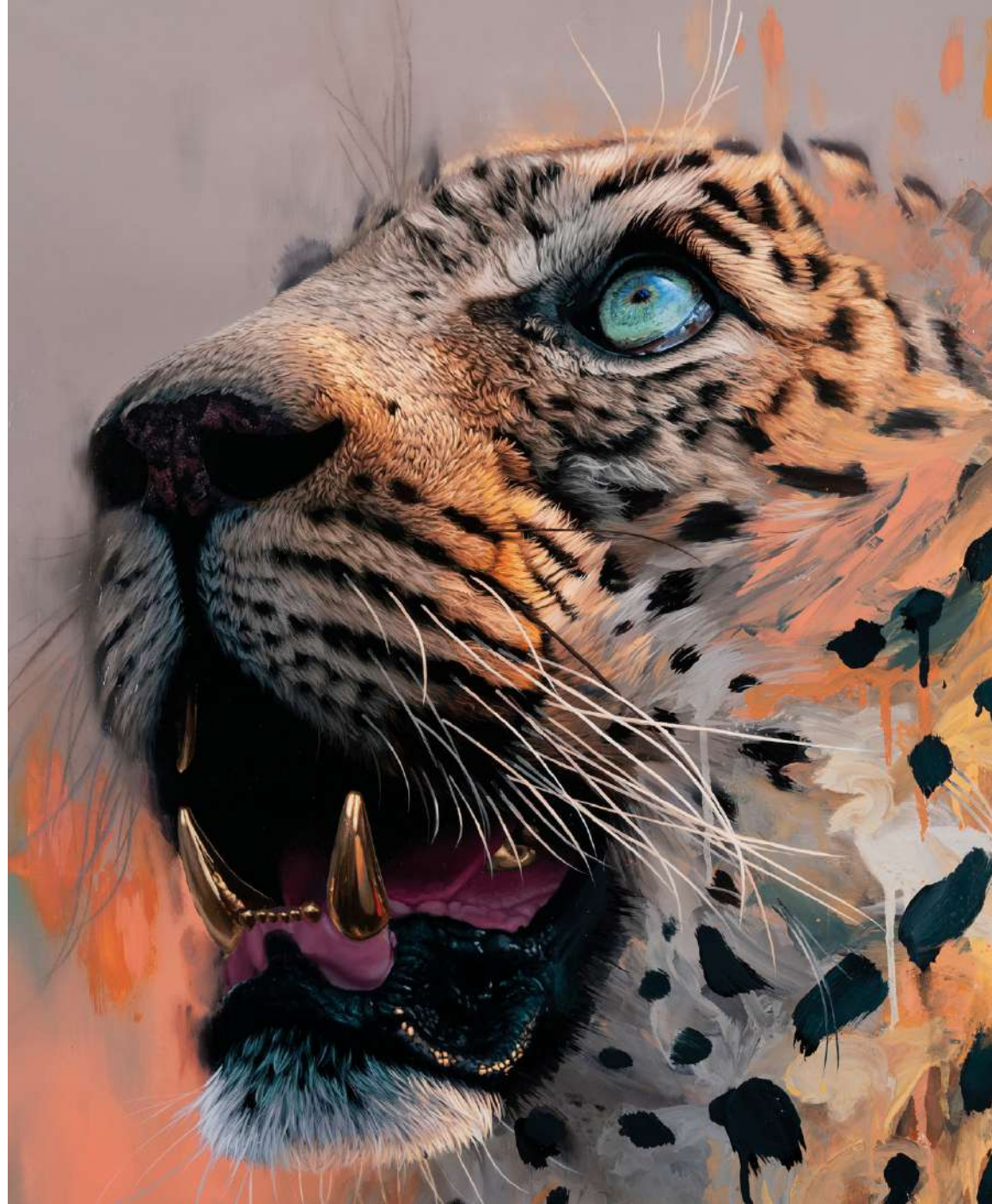
A SELECTION OF OIL PAINTINGS AND BRONZE SCULPTURES
SHOWCASED GLOBALLY IN GALLERIES AND ART FAIRS

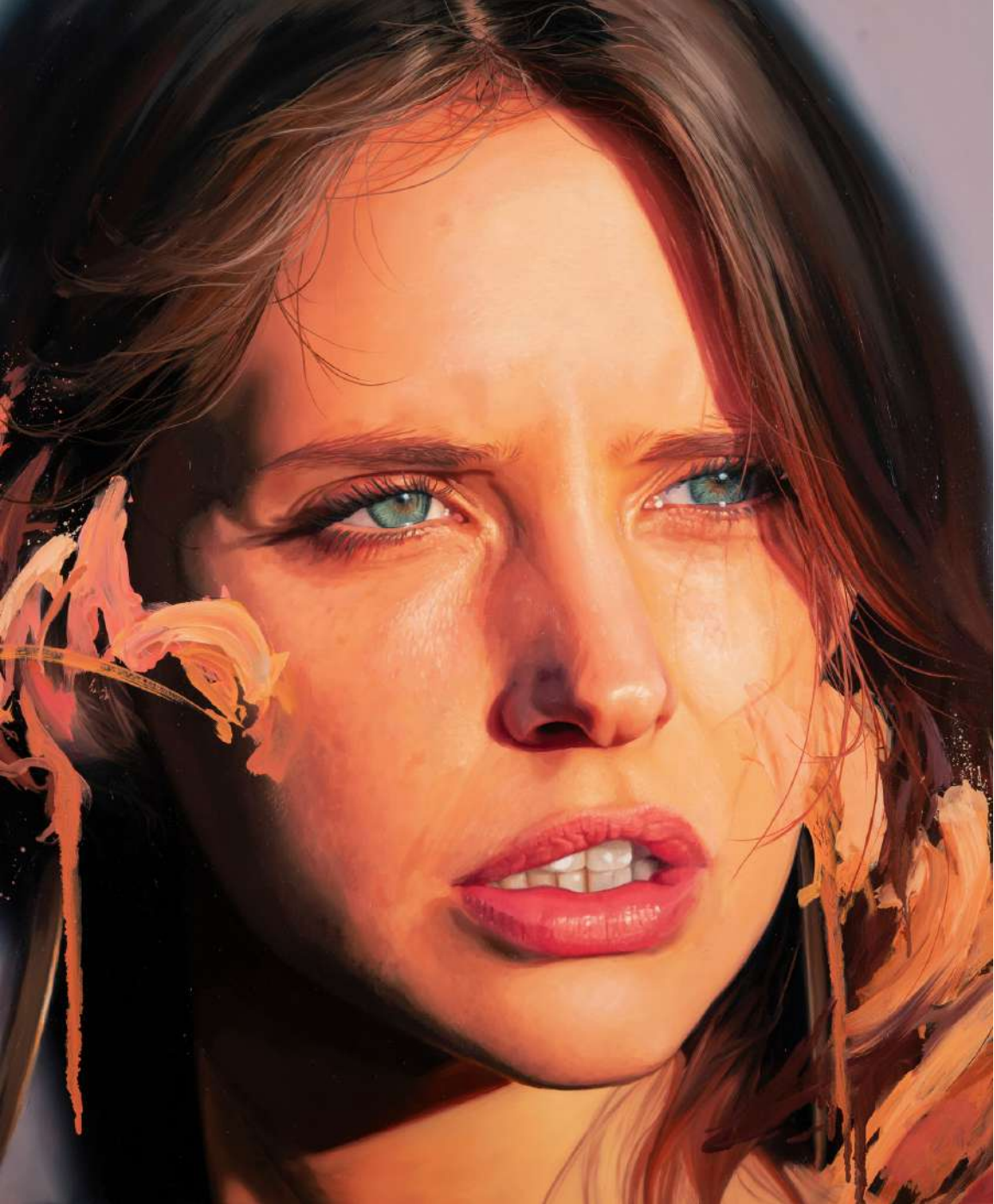
As an increasingly coveted urban contemporary artist, Sonny now splits his time between the streets and the studio. His artworks are featured in several prestigious galleries around the world, including prominent locations such as London, Italy and New York.



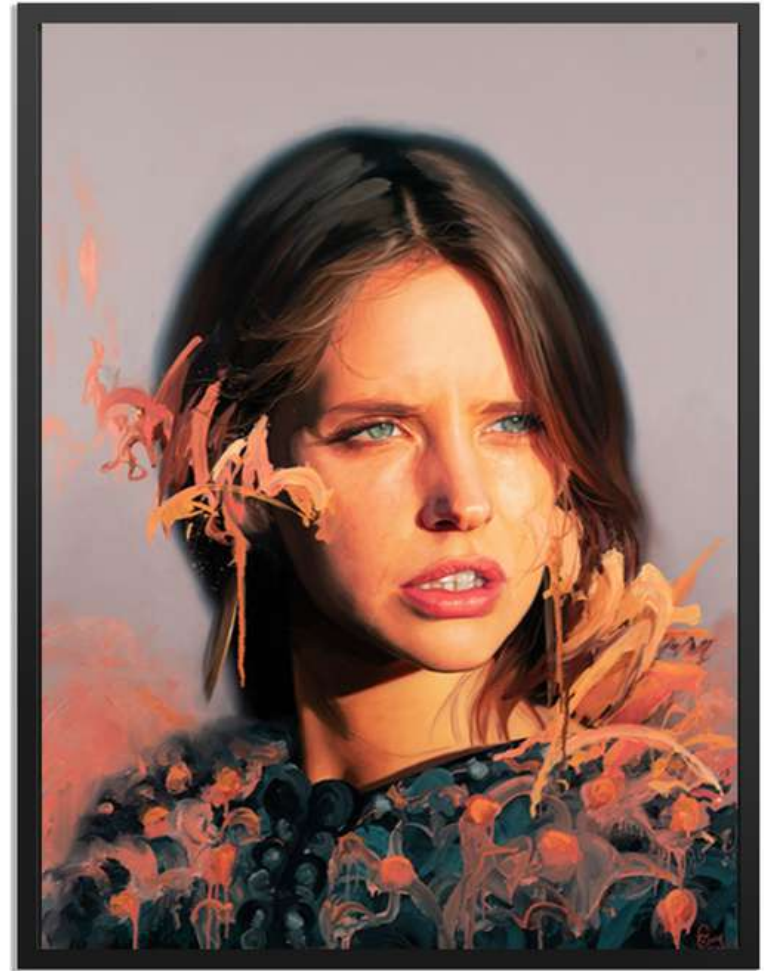


THE ESSENCE I
oil on canvas
91.5cm x 122cm





THE ESSENCE II
oil on canvas
91.5cm x 122cm



TERRA

LATIN WORD FOR 'EARTH'

BRONZE

Sculpted and hand-painted by Sonny

Edition of 18

17cm H x 36cm W x 21.6cm D

13.2lbs/6kg





KALPANA
oil on canvas
91.5cm x 91.5cm



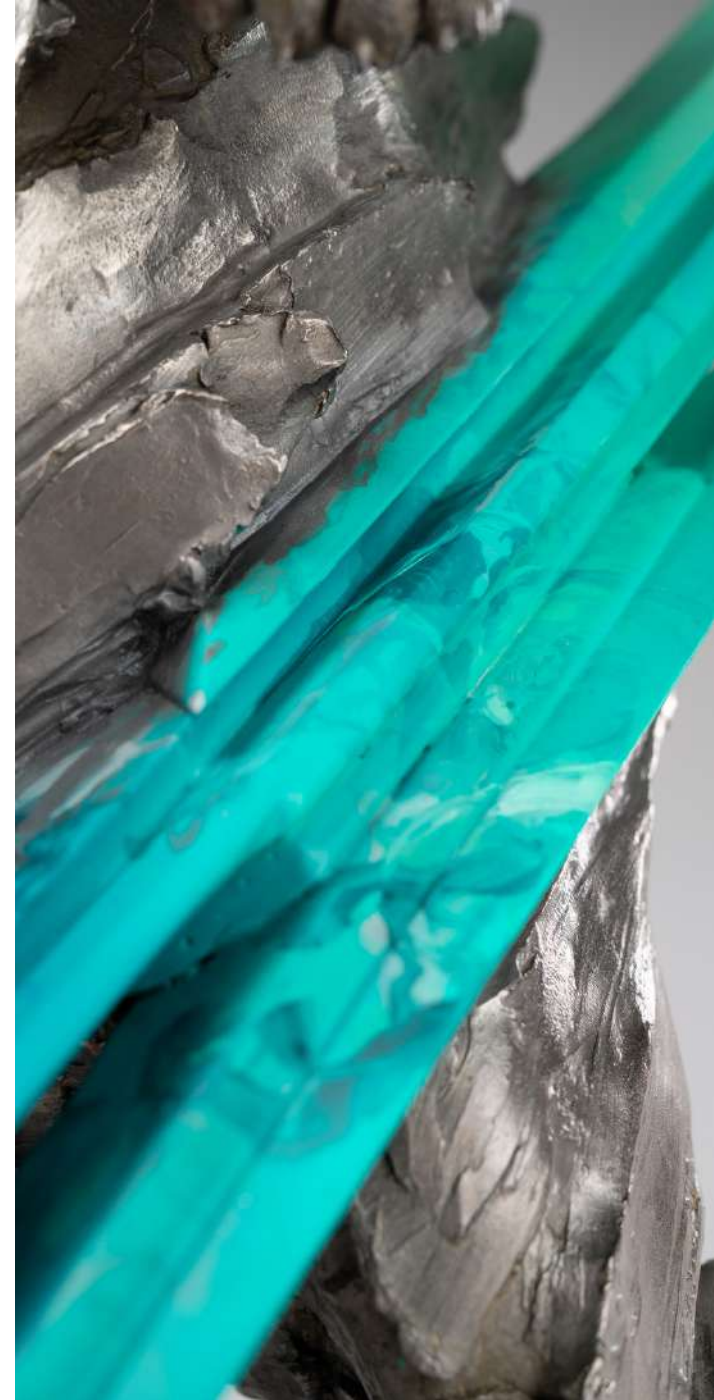


SIKU

INUIT WORD FOR 'SEA ICE'

BRONZE

Sculpted and hand-painted by Sonny
Edition of 12
59cm H x 29.2cm W x 28cm D
45.9lbs/20.8kg





UKURI
oil on canvas
100cm x 120cm



TAU
oil on canvas
100cm x 120cm



TUNDRA

THE COLDEST OF ALL THE BIOMES

BRONZE

Sculpted and hand-painted by Sonny

Edition of 18

24 H x 35.5 W x 18cm D

14.6lbs/6.6kg



KAWAAKARI
oil on canvas
150cm x 150cm





TAIGA

A SNOWY, SUBARCTIC FOREST

BRONZE

Sculpted and hand-painted by Sonny

Edition of 8

43cm H x 70cm W x 25cm D

50.7lbs/23kg



ALNITAK
oil on canvas
140cm x 180cm



SAVANNA

AFRICA'S GREAT ROLLING GRASSLANDS

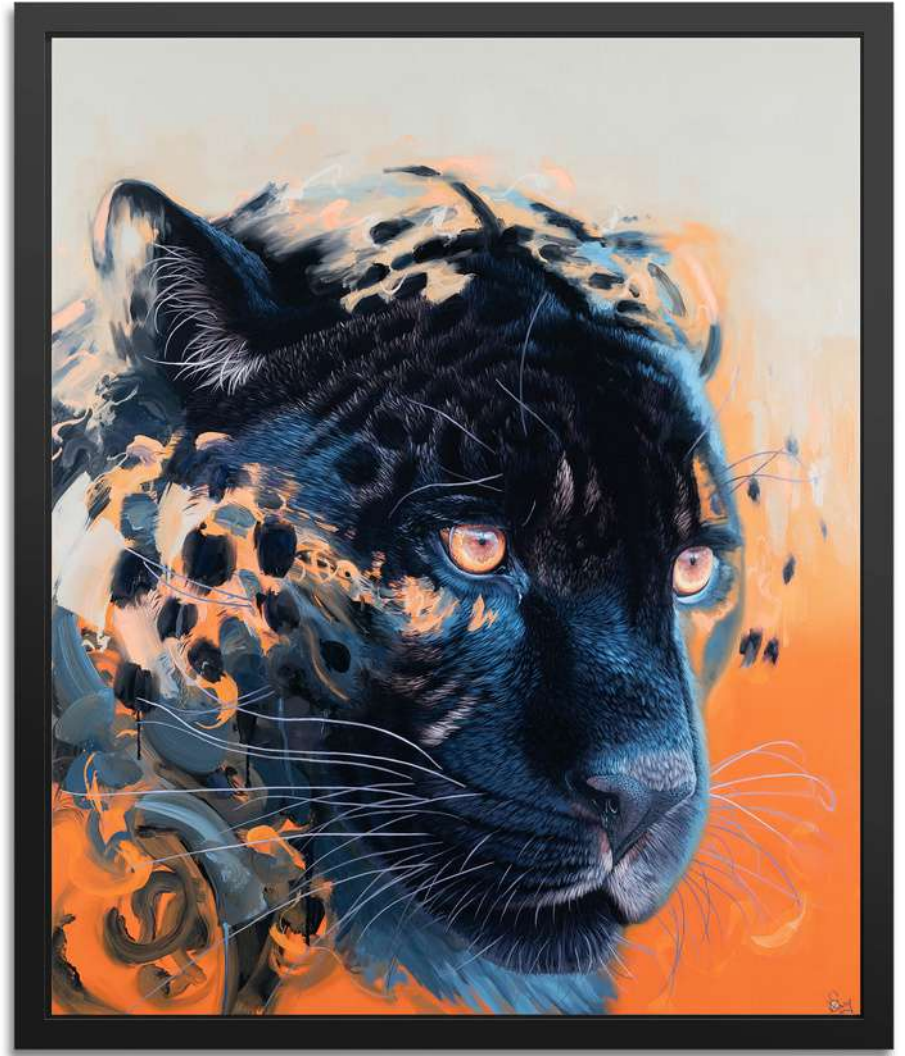
BRONZE

Sculpted and hand-painted by Sonny
Edition of 12
40.6cm H x 48cm W x 22.8cm D
35.3lbs/16kg





THE NIGHT SUN II
oil on canvas
100cm x 120cm













FILM & ART DIRECTION

Cognisant of the physical limitations of the world during the pandemic, Sonny traded in the traditional gallery walls for an online experience, embracing his passion for film and the opportunity to explore new avenues of creative storytelling. Using film and photography as a mechanism for delving deeper into the themes and emotions felt through the sculptural works, Paradox III conveys a unique visual language that dances tantalizingly between the beautiful and the bizarre.



"I've always loved film and I immersed myself in every element of this production, from building custom sets and elaborate props, to styling and directing the story."

- SONNY



ETHER

A SHORT FILM WRITTEN AND
DIRECTED BY SONNY BEHAN

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY SONNY BEHAN
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY NICK BURTON-MOORE | PRODUCER TESS CUNLIFFE
STARRING ELANA FABIAN & SONNY BEHAN
AD REMANO DE BEER | EDITING TWELVE ELEVEN STUDIOS
1ST AC RORY SPRINGTHORPE | AC DALE BURNS & DYLAN BOERSTRA | LOADER TAFADZWA PASI
COLOURIST KYLE STROEBEL | COLOUR GRADING FACILITY REFINERY CPT
MUSIC BY CHELSEA WOLFE | FEMALE WARDROBE GAVIN RAJAH | HAIR & MAKEUP SHANI STRAUSS
ON SET ASSISTANTS MEGAN KLOPPER, GREGORY WIDMER & ANDY EVANS

ETHER is a unique film in collaboration with cinematographer, Nick Burton-Moore. The short film exposes an enchanting recreation of the narrative intrinsic to Sonny's new body of work. The dramatic piece blends Burton-Moore's distinctive cinematography with Sonny's breathtaking visuals, offering deeper insight into the themes and emotions conveyed through the artist's new works.





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