



The Art of the Game

23 sculptures for the 23rd World Cup

A public art program from ARTS 14C
in partnership with
the New York New Jersey Host Committee
for the 2026 FIFA World Cup™



arts14c.org/the-art-of-the-game/

About The Art of the Game

The Art of the Game is a public art initiative celebrating the 2026 FIFA World Cup™ in New York and New Jersey. Bringing together twenty-three acclaimed contemporary artists, the project transforms the world's most recognizable sporting object — the soccer ball — into a series of monumental sculptures installed across New York City and New Jersey during the world's largest sporting event. Timed to a tournament expected to draw more than five billion viewers worldwide, The Art of the Game turns the region into an open-air museum, connecting contemporary art with a global audience.

Each sculpture was fabricated from steel with aluminum dibond panels by Powerhouse Arts in Brooklyn: a seven-foot-high outdoor work built for long-term public display. Sited in parks, museums, waterfronts, transit hubs, and civic gathering spaces, the sculptures celebrate both the range of contemporary artistic practice and the unifying power of sport.

When the exhibition concludes September 7, 2026, select works will remain as permanent public art, while others will enter private and public collections — extending the project's legacy well beyond this year's World Cup.

The artists featured in The Art of the Game were selected through a curatorial process guided by an advisory committee of leading arts and cultural figures, whose collective expertise shaped a collection reflecting the full breadth and vitality of contemporary art today.

Charles Aubin, independent curator and former co-Director, Centre Pompidou Jersey City

Defne Ayas, Director, Van Abbemuseum, Netherlands

Patrick Charpenel, Executive Director, El Museo del Barrio

Catherine Evans, former Co-Director and CEO, Newark Museum of Art

Thelma Golden, Ford Foundation Director and Chief Curator, Studio Museum in Harlem

The late Agnes Gund, philanthropist, President Emerita, Museum of Modern Art

Max Hollein, Marina Kellen French Director and Chief Executive Officer, Metropolitan Museum of Art

Glenn D. Lowry, Director Emeritus, Museum of Modern Art

Kele McComsey, Director, Mana Contemporary

Anne Pasternak, Shelby White and Leon Levy Director, Brooklyn Museum

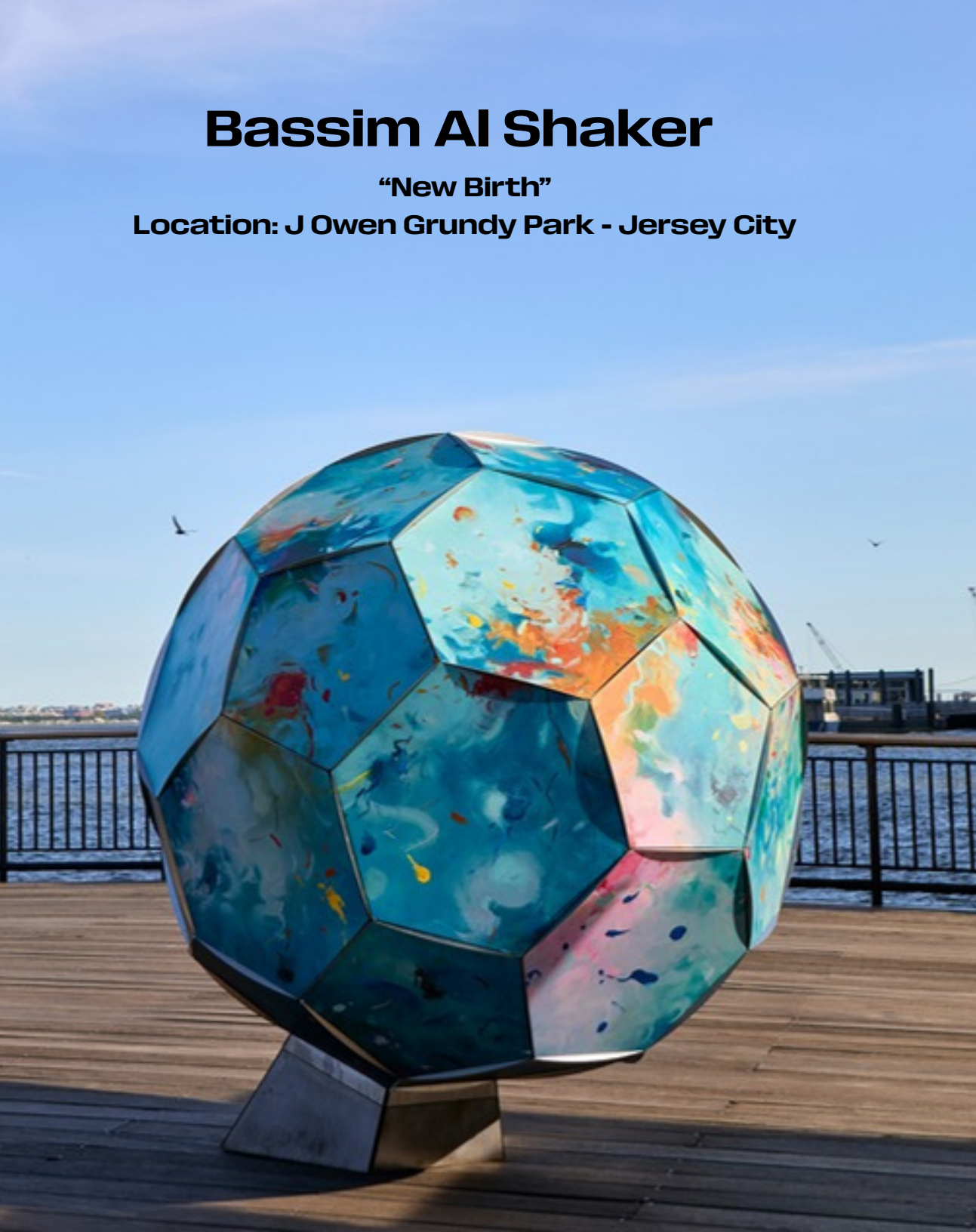
Lisa Phillips, Toby Devan Lewis Director, New Museum

Scott Rothkopf, Alice Pratt Brown Director, Whitney Museum

Bassim Al Shaker

“New Birth”

Location: J Owen Grundy Park - Jersey City



Bassim Al Shaker is an Iraqi artist based in Jersey City, whose work bridges classical training and contemporary exploration.

Born and raised in Baghdad during a time of political unrest and humanitarian hardship, Bassim developed his artistic voice amid complex social realities. He earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Baghdad College of Fine Arts, concentrating on drawing and painting, before continuing his studies at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, where he received his Master of Fine Arts.

He represented Iraq at the 2013 Venice Biennale, and has been featured at the international invitational exhibitions Documenta and the Aichi Triennial.

Sculpture status: available for purchase or donation



Mario Ayala

“Hygiene”

Pershing Square - Manhattan



Mario Ayala (b. 1991, Los Angeles) reimagines a contemporary landscape where identity, observation, and the presence of material fact play equal roles. In his paintings, Ayala brings together figures and forms drawn from every corner of his experience living on the West Coast.

Ayala's work lends interest in traditions and techniques with strong visual ties to California, such as muralism, tattooing, and industrial techniques used in automobile painting and commercial signage. Ayala's influences also extend into postwar art historical movements such as the Cool School of Los Angeles and Bay Area Funk art.

Ayala's highly personal, often surreal, tableaux are vivid representations of the way in which images course through the world, carrying with them fragments of the past, present, and a future still in formation.

Sculpture status: available for purchase or donation



Kevin Beasley

“Untitled”

Lincoln Park- Newark



Kevin Beasley (b. 1985) is an American artist working across sculpture, performance, and sound. Resin and foam cure around found materials -- most often clothing -- while Beasley shapes them by hand, leaving the imprint of his body in objects that feel as much like flesh as form. Audio equipment often lives inside the work itself, turning sculptures into instruments and installations into something you hear before you see.

Beasley lives and works in New York City. His work has been included in the Whitney Biennial (2014) and MoMA PS1's Greater New York (2015).

Born in Lynchburg, Virginia, Beasley earned a BFA from the College for Creative Studies in Detroit (2007) and an MFA from Yale (2012).

Sculpture status: available for purchase or donation



Katherine Bernhardt

“Cosmic Clash”

Christie's Rockefeller Center - Manhattan



Katherine Bernhardt (b. 1975) paints with a boundless visual appetite — flat, illusion-free canvases where scale, logic, and atmosphere don't apply, just instinct and association running loose. Each painting reads like a complete thought caught mid-sentence: blunt, lyrical, and a little raucous.

Bernhardt was born in St. Louis, Missouri, and earned a BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (1998) and an MFA from the School of Visual Arts, New York (2000). She lives and works in St. Louis.

Her retrospective, Some of All of My Work, opened at the Hangaram Art Museum in Seoul in 2025 before traveling to the Gangneung Art Museum in Korea. Her work is held in major collections including the Brant Foundation, the Hirshhorn, the High Museum of Art, the Carnegie Museum of Art, and the Rubell Museum, among others.

Sculpture status: sold by Christie's on July 17, 2026



Leo Castañeda

**“Camoflux World Inventory”
Gansevoort Plaza - Manhattan**



Leo Castañeda (b. 1988, Colombia) builds layered digital worlds — episodic video games and immersive installations that fuse painting, video, mixed reality, wearables, and sculpture into a single expansive practice rooted in Latin American Surrealism.

He's received fellowships from the Knight Foundation, YoungArts, the Emergent Strategy Ideation Institute, the Ellies, and the Harpo Foundation, with residencies at SOMA Mexico City, Oolite Arts, and Khoj International Artists Association in New Delhi. He is currently in residence at Bakehouse Arts Complex in Miami.

His work has been shown at the Pérez Art Museum Miami, the Bronx Museum of the Arts, Haus der elektronischen Künste Basel, Museu do Amanhã, and Museo de Arte Moderno La Tertulia, among others, with coverage in Hyperallergic, Vice, Spike Art Magazine, and PBS.

Sculpture status: available for purchase or donation



Taína H. Cruz

"It Found Its Way In"
The Yard, New Brunswick



Taína H. Cruz (b. 1998, New York) lives and works in New Haven. Her practice spans painting, sculpture, installation, and video, building immersive environments where figures, objects, and animals inhabit charged architectural spaces in states of transformation.

Rooted in African American and Caribbean traditions and shaped by contemporary image culture, Cruz treats identity as fluid and ever-evolving, bringing folklore and modern visual systems together to explore where they intersect and shift.

Recent exhibitions include MoMA PS1 and the Whitney Biennial, New York (2026); Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit and MMK Frankfurt (2025); and solo presentations at Kraupa-Tuskany Zeidler, Berlin (2023), Housing Gallery, New York (2022), and Embajada, San Juan (2022), among others.

Cruz holds an MFA from the Yale School of Art (2025) and a BFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art (2020), where she made the Dean's List from 2016-2020. She is also a recipient of the GO-A: Goya Opportunity Award, San Juan, Puerto Rico (2019).

Sculpture status: donated to the City of New Brunswick



Gabriel Fontana x Jeannette Slütter x All Sizes

“Your Turn”
Fordham Plaza - The Bronx



Gabriel Fontana is an independent designer and creative director whose work uses sport as a lens on society – and a tool for reshaping it. Drawing on a social design framework, he develops alternative team sports games that deconstruct group dynamics and promote empathy, replacing the default of playing "against each other" with something more playful and inclusive. His methods give people a hands-on way to question prevailing norms around identity, community, and belonging, and to imagine how they might shift. His games have been played in schools across Europe and presented at renowned institutions worldwide, earning him international recognition across education, culture, and the sports industry.

For The Art of the Game, Fontana collaborated with artist Jeannette Slütter and All Sizes, a design studio based in The Hague founded in 2023 by Jelle Koper, David Veneman, and Tom Laan, known for identity and campaign work with cultural institutions including the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam and the Van Abbemuseum.

Slütter is a multidisciplinary artist who explores the systems – both explicit and unwritten – that shape art, architecture, and the spaces we move through. Working in performance, ceramics, glass, metal, photography, and video, her site-specific installations reveal how control and "normal" behavior get built into a space, not to simply criticize those structures but to question their assumed naturalness.

Sculpture status: available for purchase or donation





Dan Funderburgh

“Flat Ball”

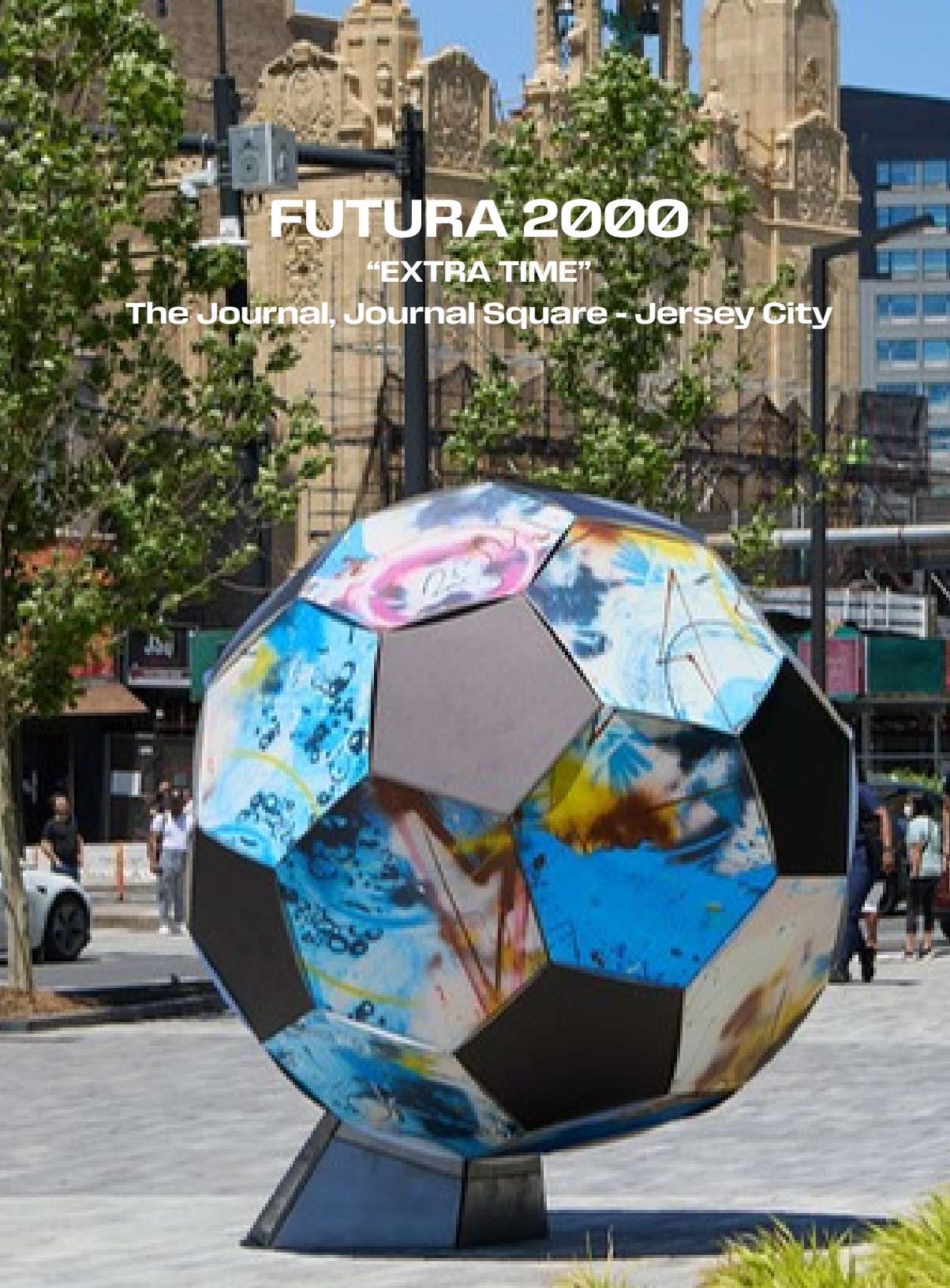
Mana Contemporary - Jersey City

Dan Funderburgh is an artist and wallpaper designer. He lives and works in Brooklyn where he partners with printers at Flavorpaper to create wallpapers inspired by ornament and history. He has been playing soccer in the same pick up game in Chinatown for almost twenty years and is very excited for the World Cup.

Funderburgh has created art for two train stations for the MTA Arts & Design program. His wallpaper designs have been featured at the Museum of Art & Design and the Smithsonian. His work is part of the permanent collections of the Cooper-Hewitt and Brooklyn Museum. He teaches Surface Design at the School of Visual Arts.

Sculpture status: available for purchase or donation





FUTURA 2000

“EXTRA TIME”

The Journal, Journal Square - Jersey City

FUTURA 2000 (born Leonard Hilton McGurr) is an artist whose practice emerged from New York City's graffiti movement of the 1970s. Among the first writers to introduce abstraction into graffiti, he was also an early pioneer in bringing the form into contemporary art spaces, exhibiting in major galleries in the early 1980s. His work was shown at Patti Astor's Fun Gallery and Tony Shafrazi Gallery, and he was featured in New York/New Wave, the landmark 1981 exhibition at MoMA PS1.

Widely regarded as one of the most influential collaborators of his generation, FUTURA 2000 has built an expansive interdisciplinary practice across music, fashion, and contemporary art. In the 1980s, he collaborated with the punk band The Clash, designing album packaging and painting large-scale canvases live onstage during their performances. In the 1990s and 2000s, he became a foundational artistic force within the global streetwear movement and was among the first three non-athletes to be a collaborator with Nike. He lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

Sculpture status: on permanent display at The Journal in Jersey City



JERSEY JOURNAL

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1976-1991
JERRY RUBIN
1976-1991



Edgar Heap of Birds

“From Sovereign Cheyenne and
Arapaho Nation to the World Cup”

SIUH Community Park, Staten Island

Edgar Heap of Birds (Cheyenne name: Hock E Aye Vi) is a Southern Cheyenne multidisciplinary artist working across public art, painting, printmaking, and monumental sculpture.

Born in Wichita, Kansas in 1954, his practice is rooted in Indigenous experience and uses text-based conceptual works – often resembling public signage – to challenge dominant historical narratives.

Notable works include Building Minnesota (1990), a landmark installation commissioned by the Walker Art Center, and Wheel, a fifty-foot porcelain enamel sculpture at the Denver Art Museum. He has received support from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation, and was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 2025. He teaches Native American Studies at the University of Oklahoma.

Sculpture status: available for purchase or donation



Madeline Hollander
“Rebus”
Asbury Park, Train Station - New Jersey

The sculpture is a large, spherical object composed of various colored panels, each featuring a different image. The images include a crystal, a gauge, a paint can, a foot, a pipe, a textured surface, an eye, and a piece of meat. The sculpture is mounted on a grey base with informational text and logos.

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[illegible]

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Matthew Day Jackson

“Rock”

The Brooklyn Museum - Brooklyn



Matthew Day Jackson is a Brooklyn-based painter, sculptor, and photographer whose wide-ranging practice spans collage, drawing, video, performance, and installation. His work draws on distinctly American imagery, from the Apollo 11 Moon landing to the atomic bomb, to interrogate how the pursuit of utopia has shaped national identity, with beauty and horror as twin undercurrents throughout.

Jackson works with an eclectic mix of traditional, industrial, and found materials, including Formica, molten lead, and scorched wood. His most recent works use a semi-autonomous laser process to explore landscape painting and its intersections with science fiction, film, and memory.

He holds an MFA from Rutgers University and is the recipient of the 2019 Jordan Schnitzer Award for Excellence in Printmaking. His work is held in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Rubell Museum, and the Blanton Museum of Art, among others.

Sculpture status: available for purchase or donation





Wyatt Kahn

“Sphaera”

Gotham Park - Manhattan

Wyatt Kahn (b. 1983, New York City) is a New York-based artist whose work occupies the space between painting and sculpture. Assembling complex wall-mounted works in which the gaps between individual canvases generate abstract or pictorial compositions, he turns lines and shapes into physical components rather than painted illusions.

Working in the tradition of minimalist abstraction, his multipart works draw on geometric forms constructed from canvas stretched over wood, mounted as reliefs that make the wall itself part of the composition.

His work is held in major collections including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Centre Pompidou, and the Museum of Contemporary Art Los Angeles.

Sculpture status: donated to the City of Oradell, NJ



Gabriel Lester

"You only see it once you get it"

Paseo Park - Queens



"The football I envisioned fills a single round shape with everything a crowd is. Up close it is not one ball but a thousand little scenes. People meeting, fighting, celebrating, hiding, falling in love, falling over. Some of it is about football. A lot of it is about our world today, which is to say, about us.

I grew up in a commune in the nineteen-seventies, at a kitchen table shared by theatre people, beekeepers and endless arguments about politics and philosophy. Before I made art I made hip hop beats, building tracks out of small fragments stacked on top of each other. This ball works the same way. Many small parts, sampled from life, pressed into one shape. From a distance it reads as a beehive or an anthill. Step closer and it breaks apart into individual lives, scenes and situations.

This is a public piece, which matters to me. I tried to make something generous. Not a statement to walk past, but a thing to walk around, lean into, come back to. A game inside the game. There is room for everyone in there. The fan and the loner, the hero and the person selling water outside the stadium. The World Cup gathers the world into one place. I put a version of that world onto one ball and left it open, so whoever finds it keeps looking long after the final whistle."

Sculpture status: available for purchase or donation



Eddie Martinez

“Untitled”

Riverfront Park, Newark



Eddie Martinez (b. 1977, Groton Naval Base, Connecticut) is a Brooklyn-based painter and sculptor whose work brings together figuration and abstraction through energetic, muscular brushwork. Working across oil, enamel, spray paint, and collaged found materials, his canvases are dense, layered, and immediately recognizable. He also constructs three-dimensional works from scavenged objects, which he casts in bronze, producing sculptures that carry the same exuberant quality as his paintings.

Martinez's practice is rooted in art history, with echoes of CoBrA, action painting, and the late work of Philip Guston woven throughout. A nomadic childhood — frequently moving between opposite ends of the United States, shaped his instinct for collecting and recombining fragments of imagery, traces of which resurface and transform across his body of work.

His work has been the subject of solo exhibitions at the Venice Biennale (representing the Republic of San Marino), the Parrish Art Museum, the Yuz Museum Shanghai, the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, the Bronx Museum, and the Drawing Center, among others. His work is held in public and private collections internationally.

Sculpture status: available for purchase or donation



Tomokazu Matsuyama

"Softly Distance"
Columbus Circle - Manhattan



Tomokazu Matsuyama (b. 1976, Gifu, Japan) is a Brooklyn-based painter and sculptor whose work is shaped by a lifetime spent between cultures. Having grown up between Japan and California before settling in New York, his large-scale paintings and public works bring together references spanning Edo-period art, classical Western sculpture, pop culture, graffiti, and manga into a bold, high-energy visual language all his own.

His work is held in the collections of LACMA, the Asian Art Museum San Francisco, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, and the De Young Museum, among others. Recent exhibitions include presentations at the Venice Biennale, the SCAD Museum of Art, and the Hirosaki Museum of Contemporary Art.

Sculpture status: sold by Christie's on July 17, 2026



Melissa McGill

“These Waters (Hudson River)” Maxwell Place Park - Hoboken



Melissa McGill is an artist, activist, and water storyteller. Her Art of the Game sculpture, *These Waters*, wraps the soccer ball in her photograph of the Hudson River, using light, reflection, and shadow to explore water as life force — a glittering, ephemeral piece that connects viewers to the natural world, and even to the cosmic rhythms linking starlight, waves, heaven, and earth.

Known for ambitious, site-specific public art, McGill creates immersive projects spanning performance, photography, painting, sculpture, sound, light, video, and installation — exploring the relationship between land, water, and the interconnectedness of all living beings, with community and lasting impact at their core. She has presented independent projects and solo exhibitions nationally and internationally since 1991, and lives in Lenapehoking (Beacon, New York).

Recent major projects include *Marea*, presented in Venice with UNESCO and the Municipality of Venice during the 2026 Venice Biennale (April 30-May 10), and *A Lake Story*, commissioned by The Bentway, Toronto (September 27-28, 2025).

Sculpture status: available for purchase or donation



Ronny Quevedo

“o equador, el ecuador, the equator (an origin of multiples at midfield)”

El Museo del Barrio - Manhattan



Ronny Quevedo (b. 1981, Guayaquil, Ecuador) lives and works in New York. His practice spans installation, drawing, and printmaking, weaving together abstraction, collage, cartography, and sports imagery to examine identity, migration, and colonial history.

At the heart of his work is a commitment to recovering Indigenous visual languages and honoring the labor embedded within them — drawing living connections between contemporary experience and centuries-old cultural traditions.

Sculpture status: available for purchase or donation



Bony Ramirez

“Flora of Communication”

New York New Jersey Stadium - East Rutherford

FIFA WORLD CUP 2026



“Flora of Communication” casts soccer and the World Cup as a universal language. Figures gather around and within the form of a ball, facing one another in conversation. Red vines and floral elements wind around them like roots — each following its own path, yet bound by a shared thread, echoing how the World Cup unites people across vastly different backgrounds. The work speaks to unity and coexistence, making MetLife Stadium, a place of gathering and celebration, a fitting home for the sculpture.

Bony Ramirez was born in 1996 in Tenares, Salcedo, Dominican Republic, and lives and works in Jersey City, New Jersey. His work stays rooted in his Dominican heritage, blending Caribbean elements with his own visual language.

Ramirez adheres life-size paper figures — bold, often oversized or contorted — onto painted wood panels, creating mixed-media portraits of contemporary Caribbean life shadowed by its colonial history. Wallpaper, swords, and rhinestones add physical and allegorical depth to the stories he tells. His work draws on Mannerist and Renaissance portraiture — still lifes, solid backgrounds, romanticized gore — reclaiming those European styles by recontextualizing them with Caribbean objects and history.

Sculpture status: sold by Christie's on July 17, 2026



FIFA WORLD CUP 2026

Cemile Sahin

“YOU MOVE EARTH”

Alianza Dominicana Plaza, Washington Heights



Cemile Sahin was born in Wiesbaden, Germany, in 1990. She studied Fine Arts at Central Saint Martins in London and the Universität der Künste Berlin, and lives and works in Berlin.

Sahin moves fluidly across film, photography, sculpture, and literature, blurring word and image, still and moving – capturing the synchronicity of today's image- and text-based communication. Her elliptical, fragmentary narratives borrow the episodic structure of TV and internet video, using the codedness of storytelling to unsettle viewers into realizing that history has always been written through shifting perspectives.

She has published three novels alongside her exhibitions: *Taxi* (2019), winner of the Alfred Döblin-Medaille; *Alle Hunde Sterben* (2020); and *Kommando Ajax*, selected for the Vienna Literature Prize and shortlisted for the Leipzig Book Fair Prize.

Sahin has received the ars viva 2020 Prize for Visual Arts, a Junge Akademie fellowship at the Akademie der Künste Berlin (2019), and an Artist in Residence stipend from the German Foreign Ministry and LVBG (2021). Her work is held in collections including Museum Ludwig, Kunstmuseum Stuttgart, Kunsthaus Zürich, and the Federal Collection of Contemporary Art, Germany. She is represented by Esther Schipper Gallery.

Sculpture status: available for purchase or donation



FEED

YOU

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EARTH

The Art of the Game

14C

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HARDWARE INC.

FOOD MARKET

Nyugen E. Smith

“This One’s For You”

City Hall - Jersey City



Nyugen E. Smith (b. 1976, Jersey City) is an artist and educator based in Jersey City whose practice grapples with the enduring legacy of European colonialism across the African diaspora. Through his work, he examines systems of oppression, violence, and intergenerational trauma ; tracing the ways imperial histories continue to shape contemporary experience.

His work has been presented at institutions including El Museo del Barrio, New York, and the Pérez Art Museum Miami.

Smith was selected to participate in The Art of the Game through the open call.

Sculpture status: donated to the City of Jersey City



ARTSQUICK
ARTSQUICK
ARTSQUICK

The Art of the Lume
A large-scale sculpture made of cardboard boxes and paper, shaped like a globe, stands in front of a grand, classical building with columns and a statue. The sculpture is mounted on a small stand with a plaque. A large bush of red flowers is to the right.

ARTSQUICK

Hank Willis Thomas

“Gooooooooaaaaa!”

Christie's, Rockefeller Center - Manhattan



Hank Willis Thomas is a conceptual artist working primarily with themes related to perspective, identity, commodity, media, and popular culture. Select collaborative projects include Question Bridge: Black Males and For Freedoms. Thomas's public art practice spans permanent artworks, including The Embrace (2023) in Boston.

Thomas holds a B.F.A. from NYU (1998) and an M.A./M.F.A. from the CCA (2004). He received an honorary doctorate from Massachusetts College of Art and Design (2025), CCA (2024), the Maryland Institute of Art, Baltimore, and the Institute for Doctoral Studies in the Visual Arts (2017). Thomas was the 2022 U.S. Department of State Medal of Arts honoree.

Sculpture status: sold by Christie's on July 17, 2026



Fred Wilson

“Zygotes”

Hudson Yards -
Manhattan



Fred Wilson (b. 1954) is internationally celebrated for transforming how museums narrate history. For over four decades, he has examined how race, power, and identity are embedded in the objects and stories that shape our understanding of the past.

Born in New York, of African American and Caribbean heritage, Wilson studied at Purchase College, SUNY. Rather than making traditional sculptures or paintings, he recontextualizes existing objects and museum collections to reveal hidden histories and challenge accepted narratives.

He gained international prominence with his landmark 1992 project *Mining the Museum*, which reimagined the Maryland Historical Society's collection to expose overlooked histories of slavery and racial inequality — widely regarded as transformative for museum practice. Through juxtaposition and reinterpretation, his installations continue to show how museums both reflect and construct societal values.

His work has been shown extensively, including at the Whitney and Liverpool Biennials. He represented the United States at the 2003 Venice Biennale with *Speak of Me as I Am*, exploring the representation of Africans and people of African descent within Venetian history.

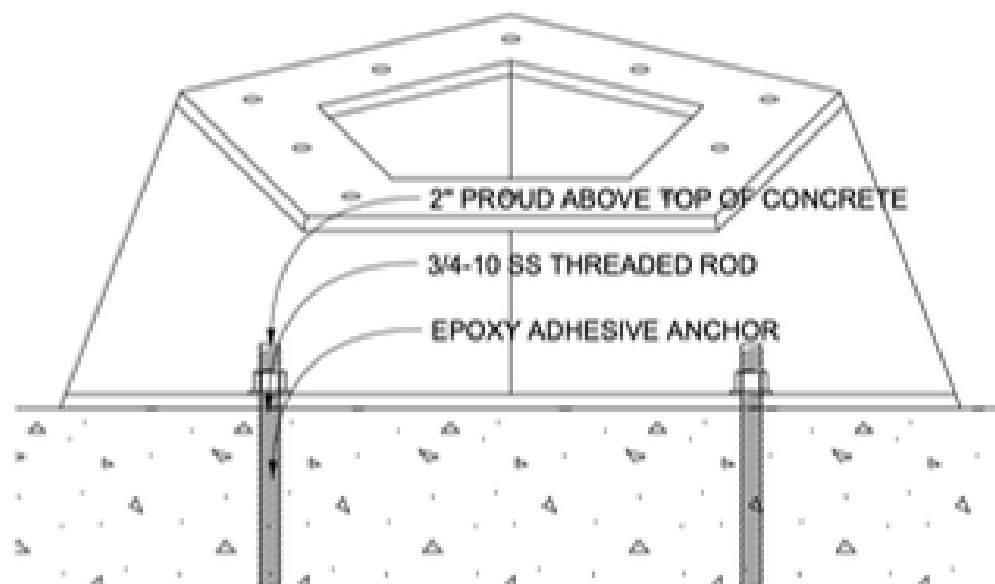
Wilson is a recipient of the MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, among other honors, and has profoundly influenced generations of artists, curators, and scholars.

Sculpture status: sold by Christie's on July 17, 2026



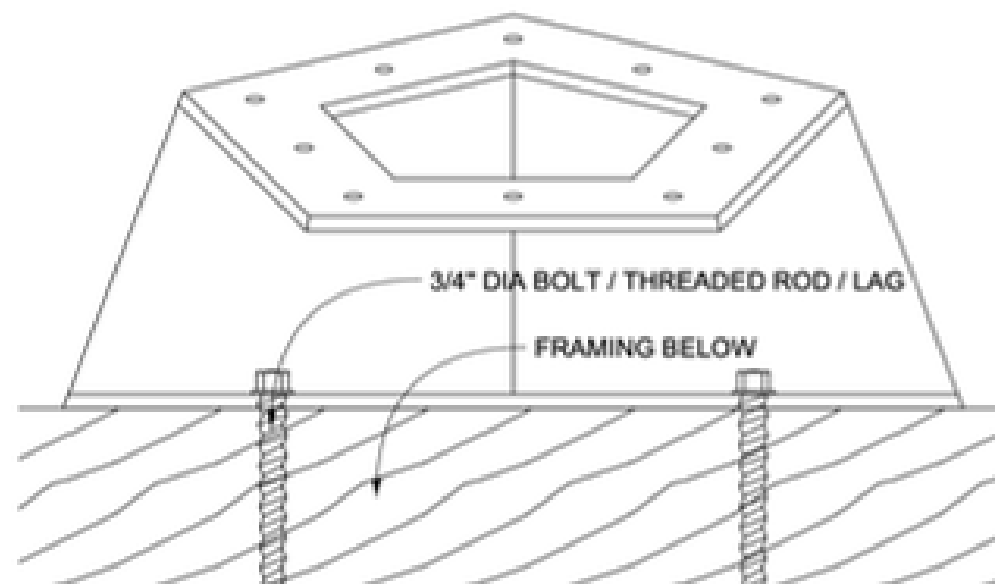
CONCRETE ANCHORAGE

SCALE: 1 1/8" = 1'-0"



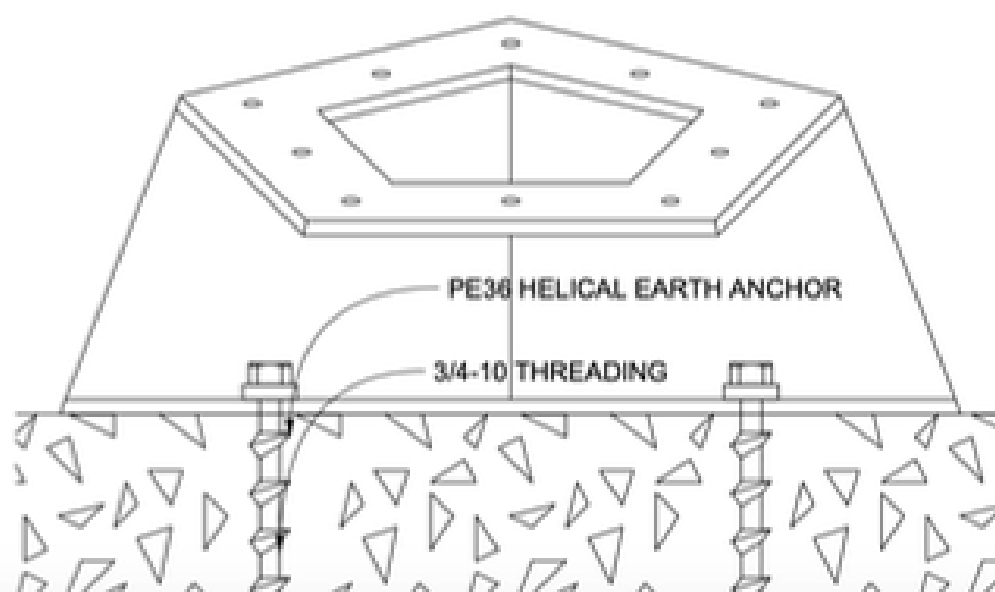
WOOD DECK ANCHORAGE

SCALE: 1 1/8" = 1'-0"



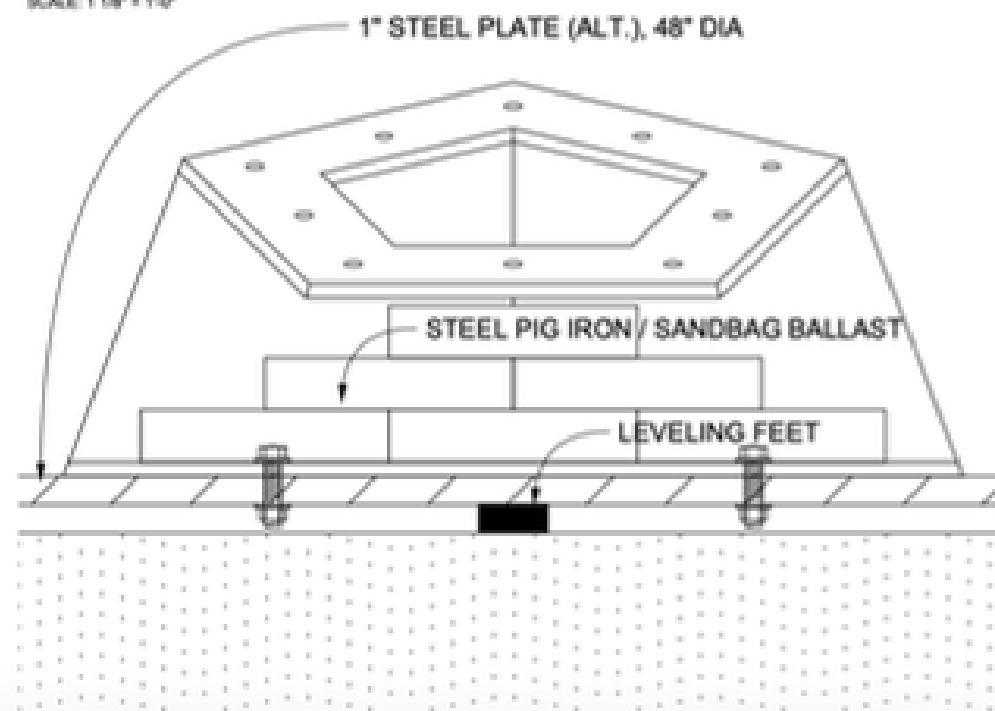
SOIL / HELICAL ANCHOR

SCALE: 1 1/8" = 1'-0"



BALLAST / ALT. SUPPORT

SCALE: 1 1/8" = 1'-0"



Some moments are remembered. Others are collected.

Own a work that celebrates the unifying power of art and sport.

The Art of the Game celebrates the FIFA World Cup 2026™ through the vision of twenty-three internationally acclaimed artists. Each six-foot-diameter sculpture is fabricated in steel and aluminum, created exclusively for this project - no editions, no duplicates.

Following public exhibition through September 7, select works will form a permanent sculpture trail across New York and New Jersey, an enduring cultural legacy for the region.

Qualifying municipalities, museums, and public institutions may receive a donated sculpture as part of the project's permanent public art program.

Private companies and collectors may acquire a sculpture outright, becoming the sole steward of a one-of-a-kind work born from this year's World Cup.



To inquire about acquisition opportunities or custom placement options, please contact:

Robinson Holloway

Founder & CEO

ARTS 14C

Phone: 917-859-4947

Email: robinson@arts14c.org

arts14c.org/the-art-of-the-game

Join us in creating a lasting cultural legacy for the FIFA World Cup 2026™.