

In photos: See the grand-slamming sculptures in the Armory Show's first-ever exhibition at the US Open

windobi.com/in-photos-see-the-grand-slamming-sculptures-in-the-armory-shows-first-ever-exhibition-at-the-us-open/

August 26, 2022



In June, the Armory and the United States Tennis Association (USTA) announced their first-ever partnership, showcasing the Armory Off-Site at the US Open. The images have since gone live of the works installed on the tennis championship grounds.

The Armory Off-Site program launched last year, with public sculptures being installed around New York City in September. This year, they are expanding the effort by selecting five exhibitors for 2022 to display gallery artist sculptures at the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center from August 23 to September 11, both during the US Open, one of the city's premier annual sporting events, and the art-focused Armory Show.

The grounds of the US Open 2021 in Flushing, New York. Photo: Nicole Pereira/USTA.

The artists whose works are showcased — Gerald Chukwuma (presented by Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery), Jose Dávila (Sean Kelly), Luzene Hill (K Art), Myles Nurse (Half Gallery), and Carolyn Salas (Mrs.) — each come from underrepresented backgrounds.

“The Armory Show and the USTA share a vision of inspiration, creativity and justice,” art fair director Nicole Berry told Artnet News. “Building on the USTA’s previous ‘Be Open’ campaign, it was important for us to select works by artists from underrepresented

communities. These sculptures bring contemporary art to a wider audience and provide an unprecedented platform for the artists on a global stage.”

USTA’s “Be Open” campaign began in 2020, when they “displayed the work of 18 artists who identify as black, indigenous or people of color, front, empty seats of Arthur Ashe Stadium,” the New York Times wrote.



“Untitled” (2021) by Jose Dávila at the US Open site in Flushing, New York. Photo: Allison Joseph/USTA.

As a non-profit organization, USTA invests 100% of its proceeds in growing tennis participation across America. This partnership provides an opportunity to cement September as the most important month on New York’s cultural calendar, while potentially attracting new audiences for both organizations. Tennis enthusiasts can check out the works near the stadiums and visit the galleries, while art lovers can watch the games. Each piece is also for sale.

Chukwuma’s work mainly exposes new audiences to challenging realities. his sculpture, *OGADILIGMMA* is part of a series focusing on the 19th-century Igbo Landing historical event, when “about 75 newly enslaved West Africans took control of a coastal ship, grounding the ship and later crossing the waters of Dunbar Creek marched into Georgia and committed mass suicide,” according to the *New York Times*. Chukwuma’s series will eventually include a sculpture for every rebel. “I think that’s a beautiful thing,” he told the... *Time*. “There is the liberation.”

Three of the five artists created site-specific works for the occasion, including Nurse's tangled steel sculpture interpreting the unique athletic rhythms of tennis, Hill's arrangement of 40 letters from the Cherokee language "in an undulating formation to represent the lyrical rise and fall (and rise again) of the native language," according to the Armory's site.

The Armory Show will be announcing additional off-site public projects and partners in the coming weeks. In the meantime, watch their first US Open presentations below.



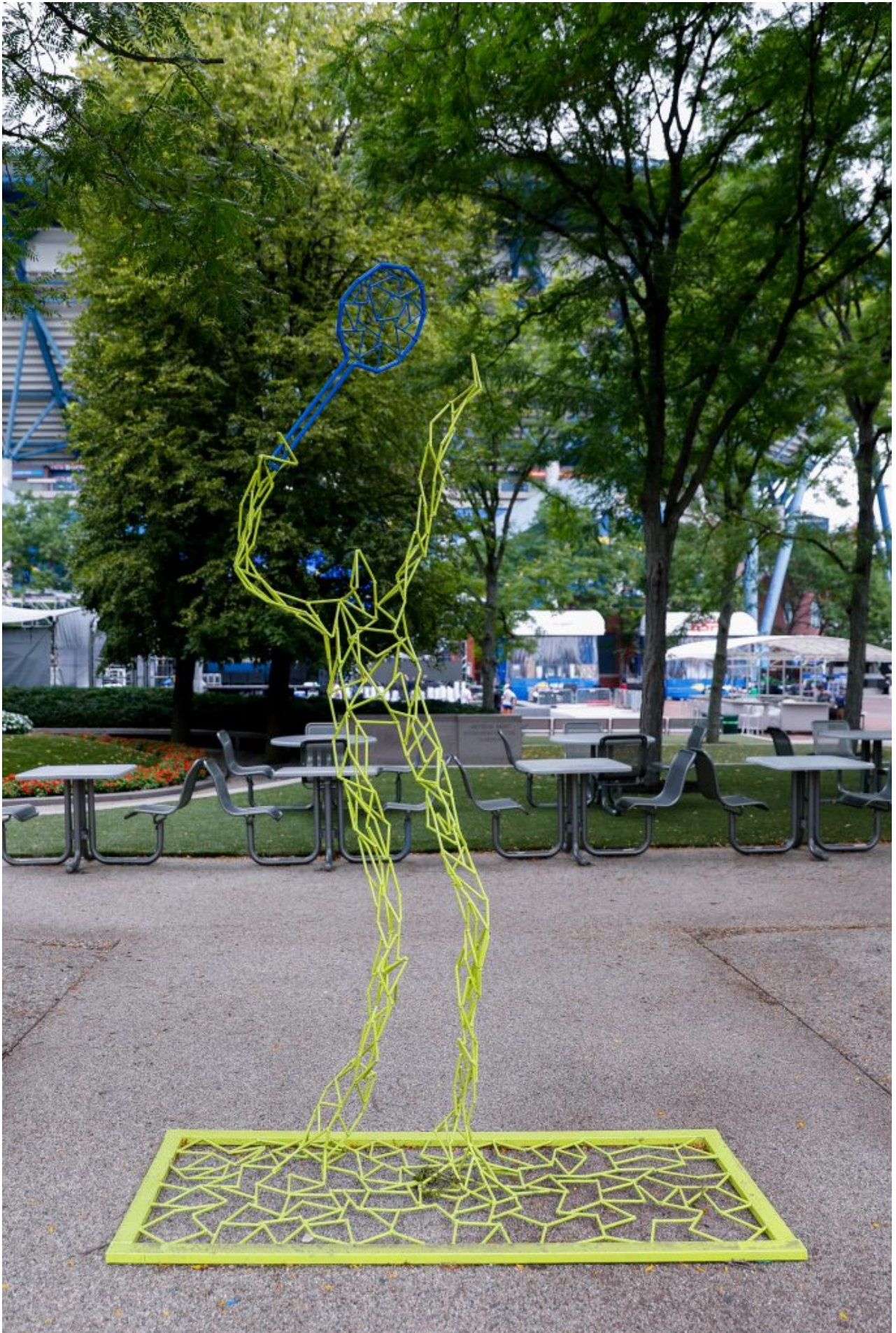
Jose Dávila's 2021 self-titled work in front of Arthur Ashe Stadium at the 2022 US Open in Flushing, New York. Photo: Allison Joseph/USTA.



Luzene Hills *To get up and start over* (2022) at the US Open 2022 in Flushing, New York. Photo: Allison Joseph/USTA.



Tippy Toes (2021) by Carolyn Salas at the 2022 US Open in Flushing, New York. Photo: Allison Joseph/USTA.



NOW I WON (2022) by Myles Nurse at the 2022 US Open in Flushing, New York. Photo: Allison Joseph/USTA.



A close-up of Dávila's self-titled work at the 2022 US Open in Flushing, New York. Photo: Allison Joseph/USTA.



A close-up of Hill's work at the 2022 US Open in Flushing, New York. Photo: Allison Joseph/USTA.



The works of Hill, Chukwuma and Dávila are now on display at the 2022 US Open in Flushing, New York. Photo: Allison Joseph/USTA.



Chukwuma's work stands alongside some of the permanent sculptures installed in New York's Flushing Meadows Park. Photo: Allison Joseph/USTA.



All works by the five artists are now on display at the US Open 2022 in Flushing, New York. Photo: Allison Joseph/USTA.

Follow Artnet News on Facebook:

Do you want to stay ahead of the art world? Subscribe to our newsletter to receive the latest news, eye-opening interviews and sharp critical comments that move the conversation forward.