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For Immediate Release.

MCASB Brings Acclaimed Bay Area Artist to Santa Barbara

Exhibition: *Barry McGee: SB Mid Summer Intensive*

Opening reception: June 30, 2018, 6 - 8 pm, MCASB, 653 Paseo Nuevo, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Exhibition on view: July 1, 2018 - October 14, 2018



From left to right: Barry McGee, *Untitled*, 2017, Acrylic and gouache on panel, 5 elements, 36.5 x 32.5 x 1.75 in., Courtesy Ratio 3, San Francisco, and Cheim & Read, New York. Barry McGee, *Untitled*, 2017, Acrylic, gouache, and aerosol paint on panel, 63 x 49.25 x 1.75 in., Courtesy Ratio 3, San Francisco, and Cheim & Read, New York.

Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara is pleased to present *Barry McGee: SB Mid Summer Intensive*, a solo exhibition featuring a sprawling installation of paintings, drawings, and sculptural objects by San Francisco, CA-based artist Barry McGee.

McGee embraces improvisation as a guiding principle in his work, finding a balance between chaos and meticulous attention to detail. Constellations and groupings of drawings and sculptures are juxtaposed against found objects, ephemera, and collected works by other artists.

McGee's multilayered imagery is born out of elements of the urban experience, including issues of identity, homelessness, and pointed critiques on consumerism and commercialism. Emblematic characters

Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara

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consistently appear in McGee's graffiti and installation works, slumped and droopy-eyed, whose faces shift with wistful and sullen expressions.

In the past, his installations have featured everything from robotic graffiti writers to entire shipping containers and automobiles. While McGee's exhibitions have taken many different forms, each is marked by the artist's characteristically immersive environments and a subtle, yet deft responsiveness to their geographic and social context.

As with past exhibitions, McGee's installation at MCASB will reflect its surrounding environment and the particular histories of the region; references to Santa Barbara's past and cultural oddities like the The Reagan Ranch Center will inform this dynamic exhibition.

In advance of the exhibition opening, McGee has invited Noriyuki Ushio, owner of Scooters for Peace (www.scootersforpeace.com), to create a pop-up shop that will feature limited edition works designed by artists, including McGee, as well as handcrafted Japanese items and vintage goods. The shop will be open to the public at 723 Paseo Nuevo (located between Paseo Nuevo Parking and California Pizza Kitchen) June 28 through July 1. McGee has also partnered with professional skateboarder Elissa Steamer to create two limited edition beach towel designs that will be available for purchase at MCASB for the duration of the exhibition.

Special thanks to exhibition sponsors RVCA and Scooters for Peace.

About the Artist

Born in 1966, Barry McGee is arguably the most well-known and influential of the recent surge of artists from the Bay Area to have international success. He was raised in San Francisco, studied painting and printmaking at the San Francisco Art Institute (graduating in 1991), and continues to live and work in the city. McGee's boldly graphic, colorful work incorporates a multitude of influences (including, for example, graffiti, American folk art, and Op Art), but is most immediately evocative of the urban street culture from which he hails. Engaging the ways in which the city's unique vernacular translates into artistic imagery, McGee celebrates the diversity, distinctive characters (one of his well-known motifs is a crawling, sad-sack bum), and neighborhood communities of the inner-city. His work critiques consumerist culture and the constant backdrop of commercialism in everyday interactions; rejecting the billboard and chain store, McGee instead finds inspiration in the seeming randomness of graffiti, the endless uploading of images on the internet, and the creative styling of misfits. McGee's work succeeds in its sensitive balance between anarchy and collaboration, resulting in environments which immerse the viewer in his singular, yet inclusive, vision.

His work has been the subject of exhibitions at the Berkeley Art Museum, Berkeley, California; the Modern Art Museum Fort Worth, Fort Worth, Texas; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; the Prada Foundation, Milan; the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; the Butler Gallery, Kilkenny Castle, Ireland; and The Watari Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, among others.

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About Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara

Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara (MCASB) is a non-profit, non-collecting museum dedicated to the exhibition, education, and cultivation of the art of our time. Formerly Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum (CAF), MCASB is the premier venue for contemporary art between Los Angeles and San Francisco. MCASB is located at the Paseo Nuevo Shopping Center Upper Arts Terrace in downtown Santa Barbara, CA. With the opening of the MCASB Satellite @ Hotel Indigo Santa Barbara in February of 2012, MCASB becomes one museum with two locations. Located in the Hotel Indigo Santa Barbara at 121 State Street, the MCASB Satellite space features yearlong exhibitions of stimulating contemporary artworks.