

Step into Barry McGee's World at MCASB

By Ariana Meyers / VOICE

A SPRAWLING INSTALLATION GRACING THE WALLS, floors, and ceilings of the Museum of Contemporary Art, Santa Barbara, *Barry McGee: SB Mid Summer Intensive*, created specifically for its exhibition space, opens with a reception on Saturday, June 30th from 6 to 8pm. A Bay Area artist, Barry McGee's work is boldly graphic and playfully colorful.

"Barry's been on our radar for a while now," remarked Alexandra Terry, Associate Curator at MCASB. "Personally I have been interested in

seeing the arc of his practice develop so much over the past decade. We thought now would be an opportune moment for a solo exhibition."

A San Francisco native, McGee is one of the most well-known and influential artists of the Bay Area. Although he studied at the San Francisco Art Institute, McGee first made his mark by doing graffiti around the city as a high schooler. "I like the non-artfulness of it," McGee said in an interview with Conceptual Fine Arts' Paul Laster. "It's generally quite different than what you find with all of the trappings of the art world. It's a really separate universe."

After graduating from the Art Institute in 1991, McGee became a leading figure in the 1990s movement known as the Mission School, after the city's celebrated Mission District. Since then, McGee has continued to create improvised installations and immersive environments inspired by urban street culture, the randomness of graffiti, and the balance between chaos and collaboration.

Along with paintings, drawings, ceramics, sculptures, and found objects from McGee's previous work, the multi-media exhibition will also feature artwork created specifically for MCASB, including paintings on the walls themselves.

"Every show contains a lot of the

same elements, but each installation is site specific and based on the space itself," continued Terry. "Not only does he present reoccurring ideas and images that run through his practice, but he also picks up on historical narratives for the area in which he is exhibiting."

Specifically, having spent time in Santa Barbara, *Barry McGee: SB Mid Summer*

Intensive reflects the environment, histories, and cultural oddities of Santa Barbara in this dynamic exhibition.

"He's a surfer, so being based only six hours away, he often travels to surf here. So he knows Santa Barbara and Goleta pretty well," noted Terry. "But there is also a cultural element in the show. Santa Barbara is smaller than San Francisco, and it is a completely different vibe.

But that contrast is not always so explicit in his work."

A hands-on artist, McGee's installations will roam freely across the walls, floors, and ceilings of the MCASB exhibition space. "Every installation Barry does comes together very organically. When he works on a show, he really throws himself into it," said Terry.

The final piece of the puzzle, putting the installation together in the gallery space, can take up to ten hours to complete. "I never know how it's all going to hang together," McGee added to Laster. "I like that pressure, where it could either be a flop or a success - or whatever being successful means. I bring all of the

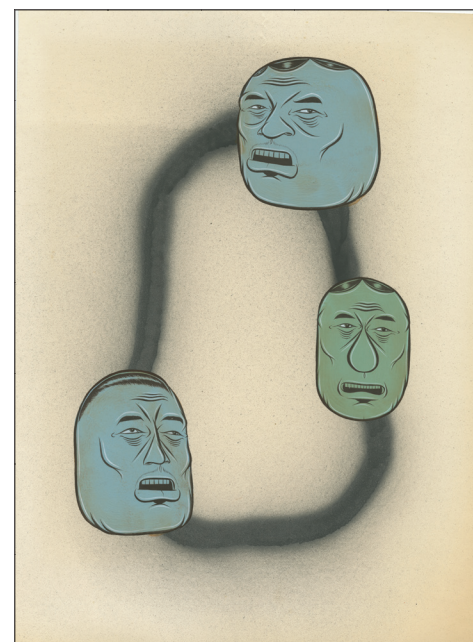


Barry McGee

Photo by Matt Howthorne



Untitled by Barry McGee
2017, Acrylic, gouache, and aerosol paint on panel, 4 elements, 38.5 x 39.25 x 1.75 in. Courtesy Ratio 3, San Francisco, and Cheim & Read, New York.



Untitled [detail] by Barry McGee
2018, Courtesy Ratio 3, San Francisco, and Cheim & Read, New York.

elements there and then I'll see if I can pull it off."

For this innovative artist, the process is just as important as the art itself. "It's been great working with Barry," shared Terry. "For me, as a curator, it has been fascinating to witness the artistic process and the way he considers the challenge of the exhibition, and his decision making for what to put in the show. It's really organic and thought out."

www.mcasantabarbara.org

Ornamental Green Glazed Ceramics Ornamental Cerámica de Vidriado Verde June 30-October 20, 2018



This new exhibition at Casa Dolores features extraordinary green-glazed clay ceramics from several villages including Patamba, TzinTzunTzan, Michoacán, and Atzompá, Oaxaca. In addition to regional variations, artists develop their own personal styles and



craft to create finely glazed green ware. The applied pieces vary in quality from simple lumps of clay to delicate and intricately hand-sculpted leaves. Artisans produce a large quantity of pineapple shaped jars and jugs, censers, candlesticks, and dishware.



In Sand and Oil: A Painting by José Salazar, 1960's- 1970's En Arena y Oleo de José Salazar, Años 1960's-1970's June 30-October 20, 2018

The Mexican painter José Salazar (1926-2006) is considered a classic of the Neo-Impressionist movement whose work was rooted in capturing the movement of the natural world through colors. Well-known for his unique oil painting style, he achieved fame and critical acclaim both in Mexico and internationally. In 1965, his paintings were added to the prestigious Vincent Price collection, and in 1966 he was included in foreign exhibitions by Simpson's Gallery, among the Great Masters such as Rembrandt, Picasso, and Chagall.



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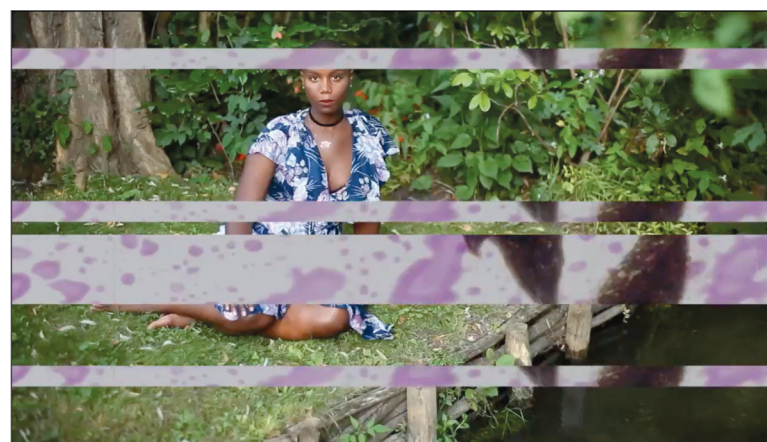
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Ja'Tovia Gary, Still from *Giverny I (Negresse Imperiale)*, 2017 digital video, 6:22 min.

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