

# Barry McGee brings local surf culture to Museum of Contemporary Art

BY DEBRA HERRICK

Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara is making a splash this summer with an epic site-specific exhibit from San Francisco-based artist Barry McGee. While installing the show, which includes over 700 pieces, the artist and his crew made themselves at home in their favorite place between L.A. and San Francisco—Carpinteria. Summoning that Santa Barbara surf vibe for the show, the crew surfed Rincon most days, where McGee has been coming to surf for most of his life. "Some of the best surfers and surfboard shapers are from here," said McGee. "So, it has this ongoing history with me that I like. And there is this weird underground thing going on here with surfing. It's not about the corporate and contest part of surfing. It's for something else that people surf. And I like that. There's a real soul here."

While the exhibit "Barry McGee: SB Mid Summer Intensive" bears McGee's name and features iconic work from his early Mission Street days—wall boils and his more recent vibrant geometric concepts—it's hardly a solo show. Seeking the folk feel of a small town municipal museum, McGee shares the space with invited local artists and surfboard shapers. The Bloom Project gallery within MCASB's main hall is fully dedicated to Reynolds "Renny" Yater who has shaped surfboards in the area since the 1950s, with Yater Surfboards storefronts in Summerland (now closed) and Santa Barbara. For McGee, The Bloom Project he curated, "Reynolds Yater: Selections from 70 years of hand sculpted functional art," is one of the most compelling aspects of the exhibit. "I initially got interested in his boards because there was one in an old surf shop

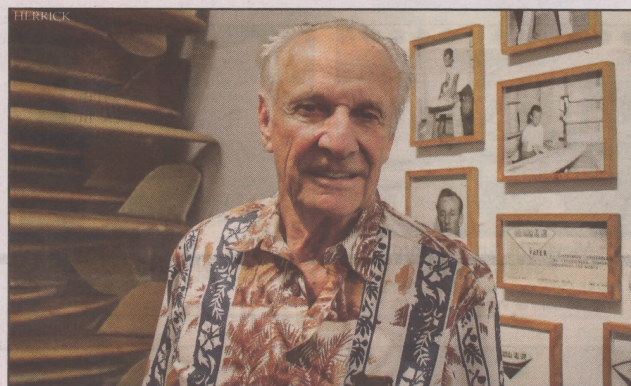
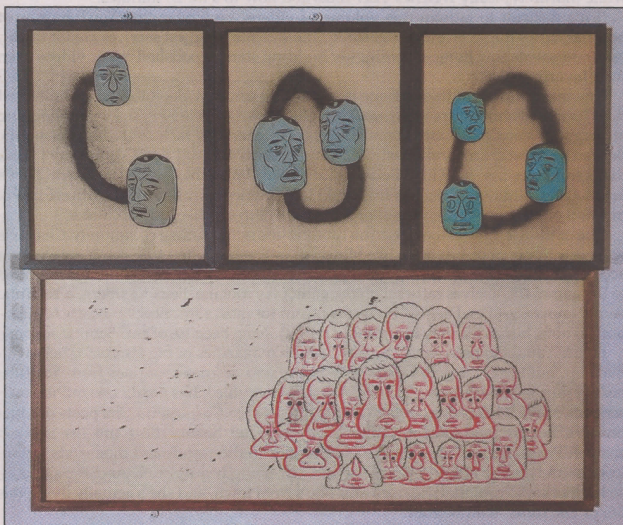
(it was sometime in the '90s) and I saw the logo and I was like this logo is amazing—just design wise." McGee later added, "Renny just brought these photos that are from that period, the '60s, and they are stunning."

In the mornings before heading to the museum to install the exhibit, McGee and his crew surfed Rincon, perused the Carpinteria Friends of the Library Used Bookstore, fueled up at the Worker Bee Café and gathered snacks at Pacific Health Foods. "We're all enamored with Carpinteria. It's a really good functioning town without a lot of corporate business. Don't touch anything there," said McGee.

"Barry McGee: Mid Summer Intensive" is on view from July 1 to October 14, 2018 at the Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara, 653 Paseo Nuevo, Santa Barbara.



ABOVE, In his MCASB show, San Francisco-based artist Barry McGee includes surfboards by Santa Barbara shapers amidst others that he has painted with vivid geometric designs.



ABOVE, Reynolds "Renny" Yater exhibits a selection of boards, logo designs and photographs from his 70-year career of hand sculpting boards.

LEFT, Recent drawings and paintings from Barry McGee featuring the artist's iconic floating heads are on view in the exhibit "SB Mid Summer Intensive" at MCASB.