

**Barry McGee: Advanced Mature Work****September 15 - November 25, 2007****Opening reception: Friday, September 14, 7 - 10 pm**

Barry McGee, *One More Thing*, 2005. Installation view, Deitch Projects, New York, courtesy the artist and Deitch Projects. Photo: Tom Powell Imaging

Barry McGee has long sought to maintain a destabilized art practice rooted in the spontaneity and immediacy of graffiti culture and all informal forms of expressivity. For McGee, graffiti is a vital communicative record of society, an extension of the desire for freedom and the intellectual core of his practice. It is pure expression in line with the values of American society. As he has explained: "The American Dream has nothing to do with criminality, but with a desire for independence and adventure, so escaping from any kind of control or definition also signifies not being identified, acting illegally, standing outside of every category of art and intervention on the streets."

Amid a profound history of sanctioned and unsanctioned public art, McGee and his cohorts including Bill Daniels, Chris Johanson, Margaret Kilgallen, Alicia McCarthy, and Rigo 23 came to exact a significant impact on art practice in the San Francisco Bay Area in the 1990s working on the streets and at the Luggage Store Gallery, Adobe Books, Clarion Alley and other formal and informal venues.

An avid looker, McGee is uniquely aware of the color, smell, and speed of his surroundings. Exposed to radical practices of activism, art, and performance in the Bay Area in the 1980s, McGee is part of a unique anti-establishment aesthetic that values social responsibility and nature. In his current practice, McGee continues to test the limits of an uncontained practice, incorporating overturned vehicles, motorized objects, destroyed surfaces, flash movies, and hundreds of “tape” paintings.

McGee’s site-specific installation at REDCAT will include a selection of existing works as well as a new sculptural/environmental construction. The exhibition is McGee’s first solo exhibition in Los Angeles since his Hammer Project in 2000. It is the second exhibition McGee has worked on with former REDCAT gallery director and curator Eungie Joo. The first was the 1998 exhibition, *Regards, Barry McGee* at Walker Art Center in Minneapolis.

Born 1966 in San Francisco, McGee received his BFA in painting and printmaking from the San Francisco Art Institute in 1991. He has exhibited internationally including at the Watarium, Tokyo; Liverpool Biennial; Museum Het Domein, Sittard; Prada Foundation, Milan; Deste Foundation, Athens; 2001 Venice Biennale; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. McGee lives and works in San Francisco.

Barry McGee: Advanced Mature Work is made possible by the generous support of Jeffrey Deitch, Everloving and Feal Mor, RVCA and Giant Robot.

Gallery hours: noon to 6pm or intermission, closed Mondays

Admission to the gallery is always free

Visit www.redcat.org or call +1.213.237.2800 for more information

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