

Barry McGee

August 11 – October 21, 2007

Barry McGee is an internationally renowned artist celebrated for his work in the street as a graffiti artist, and for his painted installations in galleries and museums around the world. This is his first exhibition in Ireland.

Barry McGee comes from a background of creating unsanctioned work on city streets in his native San Francisco. Signing his works with the tag “Twist” the artist draws his inspiration from the contrast and tension that exists between the city center and the suburbs, between wealthy districts and the slums. McGee’s signature tags and markings have inserted an element of the individual and the handmade into a depersonalized urban landscape that has become increasingly crowded with corporate logos, trademarks and advertisements. His visual language is at the same time eclectic, ephemeral, radical and above all heavily influenced by the daily realities of the city. McGee’s complex installations convey a sense of vitality and chaos, juxtaposed with a precarious nature and sense of alienation. ¹

McGee draws on a range of influences including the Mexican muralists, tramp art, the graffiti artists of the 70’s and 80’s and the San Francisco Beat poets to create a unique visual language. He approaches the gallery space like a living breathing

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entity and inhabits it's nooks and crannies. McGee has created a new installation for the Butler Gallery and what is evolving is a raw multi-media synthesis of pure energy. Large-scale wall murals are made up of old and new multi-coloured geometric panels that include clusters of framed drawings and snapshots, glass bottles, light boxes, 'wall pimples' and much, much more. One can never anticipate what McGee will deliver on the opening day, but one can be assured of being visually stimulated, amused and intrigued. Barry McGee is a truly exciting artist of our time and a visit to this exhibition will reveal and reward all.

Barry McGee was born in California in 1966 to a Chinese mother and an Irish American father. He lives and works in San Francisco, California. McGee received his BFA from the San Francisco Art Institute in 1991 and has had numerous exhibitions worldwide, including venues such as the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art , the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, the Venice Biennale, the Fondation Cartier in Paris, and the Fondazione Prada in Milan. He is currently on view at The Watari Museum of Contemporary Art in Tokyo, Japan.

Barry McGee is represented by Gallery Paule Anglim, San Francisco, Deitch Projects, New York, and Stuart Shave/Modern Art Inc., London.

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