

**FOR
IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**



PH (212) 343 7300 FAX (212) 343 2954

Barry McGee

The Buddy System

March 20, 1999 - April 24, 1999

Deitch Projects is pleased to present *The Buddy System*, a floor-to-ceiling painting, drawing and sculptural installation by Barry McGee that will fill the entire gallery. McGee draws on a range of influences including the Mexican muralists, tramp art, the graffiti artists of the '70s and '80s and the San Francisco Beat poets to create a unique visual language. The work has the strong immediately recognizable visual signature of the best graffiti art, but is also enormously poetic and evocative. It communicates the artist's strong empathy with people who have been left behind by contemporary society.

The work fuses together found and invented imagery, tags and assorted objects. It embodies a strong sense of performance. In the words of the artist, his paintings "try to capture the overload of the senses that one might feel walking down the street of any one of our fine American cities." McGee explains that "movement and gesture in both graffiti and the figure are base components of my work ...I like the real experience of being there, a given space at a given time. I also like the evidence of the human hand at a place, at a time, and then gone into memory."

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT SUZANNE GEISS AT DEITCH PROJECTS

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DEITCH PROJECTS Gallery Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 12 - 6 PM

Also known by his street name, Twist, Barry McGee has a large following in the street art community. He has been working on the streets of San Francisco, his native city, since the mid 1980s where his images continue to endure on walls, mailboxes and other surfaces despite the continuous campaign of public authorities to paint them out. McGee has long resisted showing his work in museums and commercial galleries but he has recently become more active in a conventional art world context. His work was featured in a solo exhibition last fall at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis and a large drawing installation is currently on view in the permanent collection galleries of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

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