

MIKE HENDERSON

Chicken Fingers, 1976–1980

Exhibition Dates: January 14 - April 1, 2023

Opening Reception: Saturday, January 21, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Featuring a performance by Cabin Fever with John Rogstad, Jon Otis and Mike Henderson



Mike Henderson, *Rain*, 1978
Acrylic and mixed media on canvas, 64.5 x 120.5 inches

Haines Gallery proudly presents ***Mike Henderson: Chicken Fingers, 1976–1980***, a solo exhibition by the acclaimed Bay Area artist, filmmaker, and blues musician. Henderson's fifteenth solo exhibition with the gallery presents a selection of rarely seen abstract canvases from his early career.

Born and raised in rural Marshall, Missouri, Mike Henderson (b. 1944) moved to the Bay Area to attend the San Francisco Art Institute in 1965. His early, breakthrough figurative paintings from this period reveal the spirit of protest and social justice in 1960s San Francisco, as well as the vibrant community of artists and friends that would nourish his creativity for decades to come.

Leaving behind the explicitly political, figurative style that had defined the previous decade, by the mid-1970s, Henderson was conjuring ethereal, otherworldly spaces filled with promise, mystery, and hope. *Chicken Fingers* highlights this important moment in Henderson's creative evolution, with a suite of mixed-media works on canvas. Named for a key work from this period, the exhibition's title suggests a slippery world just within our grasp: Shaped, painted, and burnt pieces of canvas, fabric from vintage clothes, and even an old wallet are incorporated into fully resolved constellations in which lunar spheres often float

above a distant horizon. A group of corresponding works on paper use architectural forms to evoke interstitial spaces—arched doorways and balustrades opening onto multicolored skies.

Bringing together these works for the first time since their creation, *Chicken Fingers* offers a revelatory look at an artist at the height of his creative powers, reflecting both Henderson's personal journey and his place in the culture at large.

Chicken Fingers is one of several unprecedented opportunities to view the work of Mike Henderson in January 2023. That month will also see the opening of his first museum retrospective, *Mike Henderson: Before the Fire, 1965–1985* at the Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art at UC Davis; the release of his first major monograph, published by UC Press; a conversation by the artist at FOG Design + Art 2023; and a screening of his early experimental short films at The Academy Museum in Los Angeles.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Mike Henderson (b. 1944, Marshall, MO; lives and works in the San Francisco Bay Area) has been the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship (1973), two National Endowment for the Arts Artist Grants (1989, 1978), an Artadia Award (2019), and Margrit Mondavi Arts Medallion (2022). Henderson's paintings and films have been exhibited in such distinguished institutions as Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY; Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, CA; Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, CA; de Young Museum, San Francisco, CA; and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL.

PRESS INQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT:

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Mike Henderson, *Chicken Fingers*, 1980
Acrylic and mixed media on canvas
73 x 50 inches