

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SF Camerawork and Haines Gallery Collaborate on Major Solo Exhibitions by Chris McCaw and John Chiara

Presentations at SF Camerawork celebrate two San Francisco photographers through landmark works rarely seen by the public

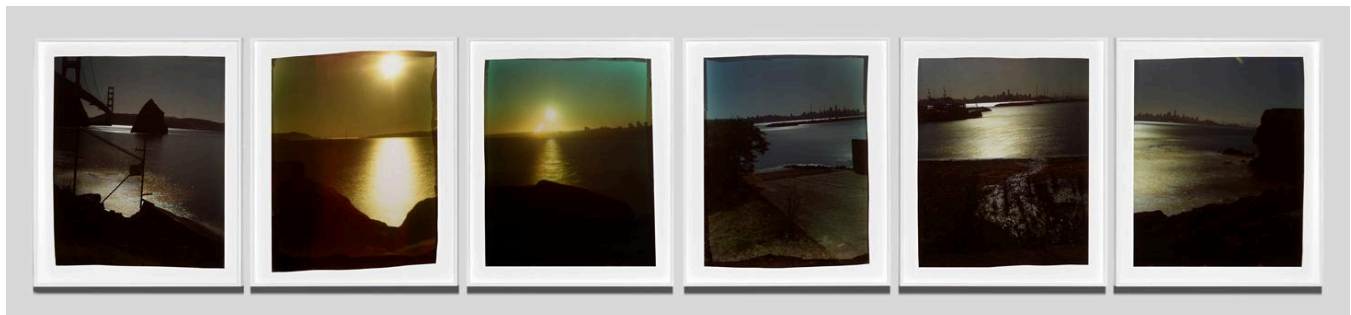


San Francisco, CA — This summer, **SF Camerawork** and **Haines Gallery** are pleased to collaborate on two upcoming solo exhibitions featuring major works by celebrated Bay Area photographers **Chris McCaw** and **John Chiara**—artists whose practices are deeply rooted in the history of photography while continually expanding the medium’s possibilities.

Presented consecutively in SF Camerawork’s gallery at Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture, **Chris McCaw: Double Day** (May 21 – June 21, 2026) and **John Chiara: Bay Panel** (June 26 – July 19, 2026) center on ambitious, large-scale works that exemplify each artist’s singular approach to image-making. Together, the exhibitions also celebrate SF Camerawork’s central role within the Bay Area photography community and its decades-long commitment to supporting artists whose practices have challenged and redefined the field.

“We’re honored to collaborate with Haines Gallery on these exhibitions of Chris McCaw and John Chiara, which speak to both SF Camerawork’s remarkable legacy launching photographic voices and the exciting future of the medium,” says Board President Stephanie Cochinos.

For both McCaw and Chiara, SF Camerawork has played an important role early in their artistic development, providing support and visibility at pivotal moments in their careers. These upcoming exhibitions honor that history while underscoring the organization’s lasting impact on photographers working in and around San Francisco for over fifty years.

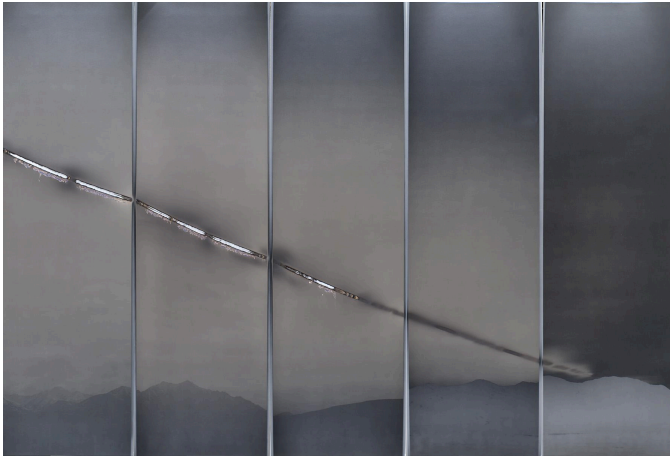


Chris McCaw: Double Day

May 21 – June 21, 2026

SF Camerawork

Opening Reception: Saturday, June 6, 5–7pm



Chris McCaw's inventive process transforms photography's essential components—light, time, and photosensitive materials—into physical records of duration and exposure, highlighting our place with a cosmos in motion. In his iconic *Sunburn* series, the lenses of his hand-built cameras function as magnifying glasses, allowing the sun to literally burn its path directly into light-sensitive paper.

At the heart of *Chris McCaw: Double Day* is *Sunburned GSP #860 (Double midnight, Galbraith Lake, Arctic Circle, Alaska)*, 2015, the largest continuous *Sunburn* McCaw has realized to date.

Created during the Arctic summer, this monumental 25-panel work traces the sun's trajectory across the sky over the course of approximately thirty hours, capturing twice the phenomenon of the "midnight sun" near the Arctic Circle. Measuring more than 25 feet in length and comprising just as many panels of silver gelatin paper, the work is a breathtaking record of landscape and weather, labor, and the passage of time. Though widely recognized as one of the artist's most significant achievements, the work has never before been exhibited on the West Coast. Alongside *Sunburned GSP #860*, the exhibition will feature additional works that illuminate McCaw's evolving investigations into the material limits and possibilities of photography itself.

John Chiara: Bay Panel

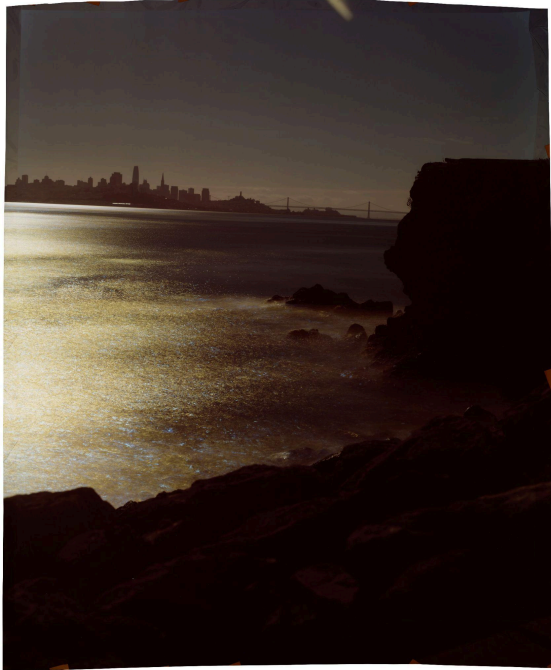
June 26 – July 19, 2026

SF Camerawork

Opening Reception: Saturday, June 27, 5–7pm

John Chiara describes his process as "part photography, part sculpture, and part event." Working with and within enormous, hand-built cameras that he transports throughout Northern California on a flatbed trailer, the artist creates unique positive photographs directly onto color photographic paper, without the use of a negative. The resulting works retain visible traces of their making: hand-cut edges, tape marks, chemical streaking, and light leaks that foreground photography as a physical and performative act.

John Chiara: Bay Panel centers on the six-part, horizontal work from 2020 of the same title, originally commissioned by the Pilara Family Foundation for an exhibition in their former space. Shown only briefly before being placed in storage, the work will now return to public view for the first time. Stretching over 24



feet in length, *Bay Panel* offers a sweeping meditation on the San Francisco Bay and the city's layered photographic history. Referencing the panoramic traditions of nineteenth-century photographers such as Eadweard Muybridge, Chiara's work captures the Bay's shifting atmosphere alongside markers of urban development and commercial exchange, including the Golden Gate Bridge, San Francisco's distinct skyline, and passing cargo ships, viewed from various vantages across the Bay. At once ethereal and finely detailed, *Bay Panel* highlights the dynamism and beauty of the Bay Area itself. Additional photographs included in the exhibition further demonstrate Chiara's singular practice and his sustained engagement with the landscapes and histories of Northern California.

**Artist-led public programs will be announced soon.
Check sfcamerawork.org for updates.**

For more information, please contact:

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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Chris McCaw (b. 1971, Daly City, CA; lives and works in Pacifica, CA) is the recipient of a 2026 Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship, as well as the Andy Warhol Foundation's New Works Grant, Southern Exposure's Alternative Exposure Grant, and George Eastman Museum's Emerging Icon in Photography Award. His work has been exhibited internationally and is held in the collections of the J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Smithsonian American Art Museum; and the Whitney Museum of American Art, among many others.

John Chiara's (b. 1971, San Francisco, CA; lives and works in San Francisco) work had been presented and acquired by institutions such as the J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles; Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC; and Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, among others. Chiara has participated in residencies including Art Factory Budapest, Hungary; Art Farm at Serenbe, GA; Crown Point Press, San Francisco; Fundaziun Nairs, Switzerland; and Headlands Center for the Arts. His work is widely recognized for reimagining the possibilities of camera obscura photography. His monograph, *John Chiara: California*, was published by Aperture in 2017.

ABOUT SF CAMERAWORK

SF Camerawork is a long-standing leader within the Bay Area arts community, dedicated to provoking discovery, experimentation, and exchange through exhibitions and experiences for all who value new ideas in photography. Founded in 1974 by a collective of artists committed to experimental photography, unconventional techniques, and sociopolitical engagement, the organization has remained at the forefront of contemporary photographic discourse for more than fifty years. Over the decades, SF Camerawork has provided a vital platform for generations of artists by fostering experimentation, supporting emerging practices, and presenting groundbreaking exhibitions. The organization has hosted early exhibitions and lectures by influential artists including Sally Mann, Robert Mapplethorpe, Susan Meiselas, and Joel-Peter Witkin, while also introducing Bay Area audiences to a new generation of artists whose work continues to shape the field internationally.

ABOUT HAINES GALLERY

Founded by Cheryl Haines in 1987 on the belief that contemporary art can change the conversation and transform culture, Haines is a leading West Coast platform for contemporary artists from around the globe. Located at Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture in San Francisco, the gallery presents exhibitions that engage audiences through visually compelling and conceptually rigorous artistic practices. Haines has been a longtime champion of experimental and process-driven photography, representing artists such as John Chiara, Linda Connor, David Maisel, Chris McCaw, and Meghann Riepenhoff.

IMAGES:

1. Chris McCaw, *Sunburned GSP #860 (Double midnight, Galbraith Lake, Arctic Circle, Alaska)*, 2015, 25 Unique gelatin silver paper negatives, 45.25 x 320 inches framed
2. John Chiara, *Bay Panel*, 2020, 6 Unique Camera Obscura Ilfochrome Photographs, 56.5 x 287 inches framed
3. Detail of Chris McCaw, *Sunburned GSP #860 (Double midnight, Galbraith Lake, Arctic Circle, Alaska)*, 2015
4. Detail of John Chiara, *Bay Panel*, 2020