

## CHRIS MCCAW

### *Reversals and Revolutions*

Exhibition Dates: **January 21 - March 7, 2026**

Opening Reception: **Friday, January 23, 2026 | 6:00PM - 8:00PM**

Haines proudly presents ***Reversals and Revolutions***, our second solo exhibition with renowned photographer **Chris McCaw** (b. 1971, lives and works in Pacifica, CA). McCaw's singular artistic practice foregrounds photography's essential components—light and time, lenses and light-sensitive materials—to generate startlingly inventive photographic forms. *Reversals and Revolutions* debuts his newest body of work, *Inverse*, alongside a selection of his signature *Sunburn* prints. Rendered entirely in-camera through McCaw's years-long mastery of complex and little-known photographic processes, the exhibited works are unique, direct prints—emerging from the camera to the developer tray without post-processing, cropping, or manipulation: raw recordings of light. This highly anticipated exhibition marks McCaw's first solo showing in San Francisco in nearly a decade, and opens in tandem with SF Art Week 2026.

McCaw's *Inverse* series expands upon the analog tools he has evolved over the past two decades. To produce these new works, the artist deploys a technique called solarization, a tonal reversal between negative and positive that occurs through extreme, in-camera overexposure. Using multiple exposures and custom-cut dark slides that mask parts of the frame, McCaw trains the lenses of his hand-built cameras not on the sun but on Earth's terrain, exploring how the photographic negative and positive can serve as visual metaphors for how we see the landscape and navigate its changing manifestations.

In some of these resulting new works, the positive area is framed within a central oculus, as if training our eyes on the site with a pair of binoculars or a camera's viewfinder as the borders recede into a negative, latent state. In others, the landscape strobes with alternating passages of positive and negative tones, rendering otherworldly horizons with meticulous detail. By integrating the negative (normally considered as a means to an end) into the finished piece, McCaw disrupts our visual and emotional expectations, inviting a closer look at changing environments we might otherwise dismiss as familiar or easily understood.

The sun is both subject and instrument in McCaw's iconic *Sunburn* works, one-of-a-kind photographic objects that are literally drawn with light. Here, the high-powered lenses of his handmade cameras harness the power of the sun, allowing it to literally burn its path across light sensitive paper loaded



Chris McCaw, *Inverse #122 (Lakes Basin)*, 2025  
6 Unique paper negatives, partial in-camera solarization  
28 x 33 inches



Chris McCaw, *Inverse #104 (Face of El Capitan)*, 2024  
Unique paper negative, partial in-camera solarization  
14 x 11 inches



Chris McCaw, *Sunburned GSP #1155 (Eastern Sierras)*, 2025  
7 Unique gelatin silver paper negatives, 39 x 84 inches

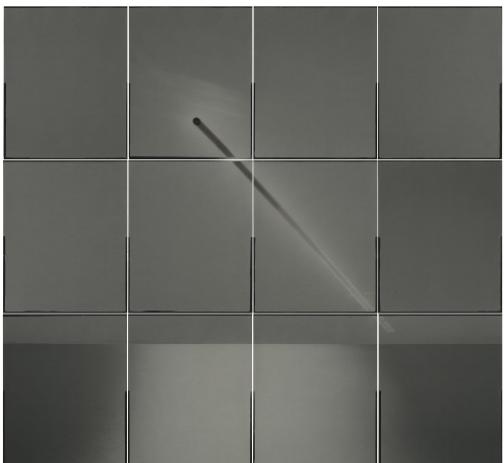
directly into the camera. Over exposures lasting anywhere between several seconds to entire days, the sun renders its own presence as circular burns or searing arcs over the horizon.

*Reversals and Revolutions* features an array of technically ambitious *Sunburn* works in which the solar incisions are scorched across multiple panels during sequential exposures or arranged in cartographic grids. Each work results from careful choreography between artist and nature, planning and chance. McCaw travels to locations based on the angle and power of the sun at a particular time of year, composing remarkable images that may trace the sun's unbroken path from evening to morning in the Alaskan summer, when the sun never sets below the horizon, or its vertical ascent in the Galapagos, near the equator. McCaw's *Sunburn* works are tactile, visceral, and temporal, the spin of the Earth and the passage of time made material.

Taken together, *Reversals and Revolutions* offers a profound meditation on analog photography's foundational elements and its continued capacity for reinvention. Across both bodies of work, McCaw pushes the medium beyond conventions, revealing landscapes shaped not only by geography and astronomy, but by the artist's own experimental rigor. The exhibition underscores McCaw's role as one of contemporary photography's most inventive practitioners, inviting viewers to reconsider the familiar world through processes that are as conceptually rich as they are visually arresting.

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Chris McCaw's work is collected by such institutions as the Getty Museum, Los Angeles, CA; Los Angeles County Museum of Art, CA; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX; National Gallery of Art, Washington DC; Philadelphia Museum of Art, PA; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, CA; Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington DC; Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK; and Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY, among many others. He is the recipient of awards including the Andy Warhol Foundation's New Works Grant and Southern Exposure's Alternative Exposure Grant, as well as the Emerging Icon in Photography Award from the George Eastman Museum. McCaw's work has been the subject of two monographic publications: *Sunburn* (Candela Books, 2012) and *Marking Time* (Datz Press, 2023).



Chris McCaw, *Sunburned GSP #1131 (San Francisco Bay)*, 2025  
12 Unique gelatin silver paper negatives, 30 x 32 inches

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