Artist: Mark P. Fisher Show Title: --THE HAPPY SHOW--

Royal Coffee Lab and Tasting Room

2523 Broadway

Oakland, CA 94612

SPRING-SUMMER 2021

Artist Statement

The Shadepainters

Before the cavepainter was the shadepainter.

Under a bough, mashing bugs to make paint.

Magic wands of fur, sinew-tied to the ends of strong sticks

Digging images into rain-softened earth, then

Drawing on stones, the funny ones are the best.

Projecting yourself into the rough image of a beast-

Hey, that’s fun.

None of our work survived.

It doesn’t mean we weren’t there - painting in the shade.

The work was destroyed by the elements.

The cave daubers (so much technique), I admire.

They missed our original laid-back way of doodling on stones,

On each other, each other’s stuff, …

We had some monumental pieces on flat limestone,

We’d get in trouble with the people of intense feeling.

We would draw large figures in the landscape.

Then we got in more trouble painting caricatures of the serious.

Long before our cave painting friends

Took paint into the earth

For an evening of Music and Dance, Laughter,

We were in the open with our rudimentary easels.

At source,

We were pure vaudeville, just working up the act and performing.

We could do it because one teacher saw the sky as open

And told us about it. That it was open.

After that, when we came down from our trees,

There was nothing to do

But paint something like that.