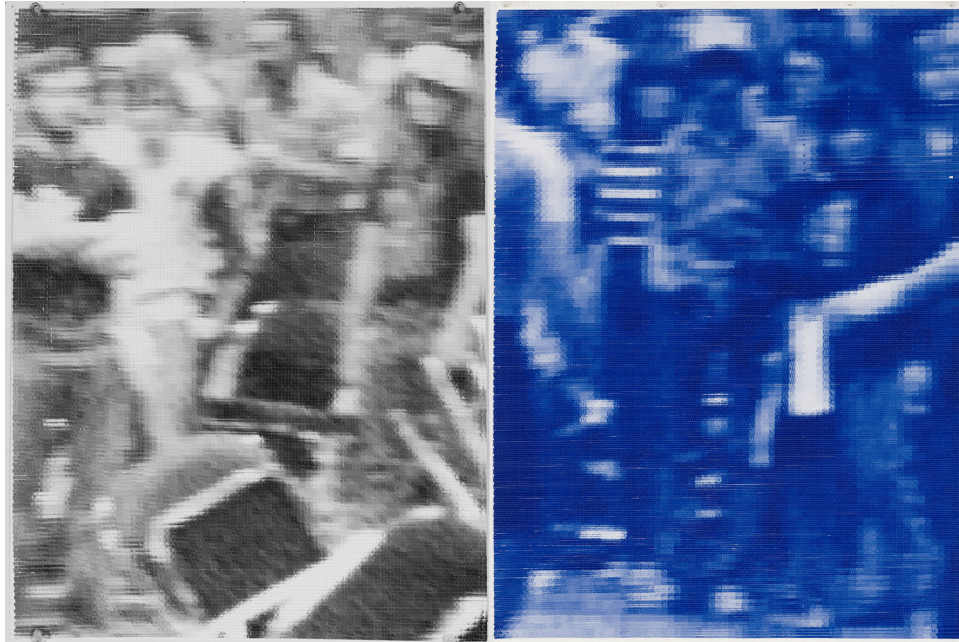


# JOHN SPARAGANA PROJECTILE



Left:  
**Projectile #11**  
2017  
archival inkjet prints,  
sliced and mixed on  
paper, mounted on  
diabond aluminum  
48"x36"

Right:  
**Projectile #18**  
2017  
archival inkjet prints,  
sliced and mixed on  
paper, mounted on  
diabond aluminum  
48"x36"

NOVEMBER 12 – DECEMBER 10, 2021

Opening Reception: Friday, November 12th from 8 – 11 PM

Musical performance by **David Grubbs**  
Refreshments provided by **Land & Sea Dept.**

**Soccer Club Club** is proud to present *Projectile*, a solo exhibition by **John Sparagana**, one of Chicago's most revered artists. The works in the ongoing series *Projectile* all have their origin in a single source image: a news photograph of chair-throwing at the conclusion of a canceled rock concert in the early 1980s. For nearly fifteen years **John Sparagana** has produced sliced and mixed collage works in which a source image is enlarged, and copies of the image sliced vertically into 1/8" strips and then sequenced horizontally, followed by a second stage in which the stretched image is sliced horizontally and sequenced vertically.

The resulting works stutter, shimmer, extrapolate, and radiate with all manner of dazzling visual effects. *Projectile* disassembles and reassembles its source image into what seems a limitless series of variations upon an image of a crowd on the cusp of violence. Sparagana's work has often centered on crowds and their representations in print media, and *Projectile* is an especially rich vein, playing on the many possible meanings of the assembled crowd, whether as witnesses, participants, dissenters, or co-conspirators. As Sparagana explained in a *BOMB* magazine conversation, "With media images of crowds, beyond the inherent political content I'm interested in how figures spatially define or characterize the visual field. Also the dynamic of all these diverse isolated gestures

coalescing into a greater organism. Both aspects have a structural relationship to my approach to collage so those crowd pieces feel particularly vital."

This exhibition's opening is timed to coincide with Drag City's publication of the artist's book *Projectile*, a 228-page mass-market paperback collaboratively produced by **Sparagana**, designer **Reto Geiser**, and musician and writer **David Grubbs**, who contributes short fiction in the form of a 2,100-word sentence that wends its way through the entirety of the book. Works from the *Projectile* series first appeared in **Grubbs's** 2016 book *Now that the audience is assembled*.

*John Sparagana* is Grace Christian Vietti Chair in the Visual Arts at Rice University. His work has been shown internationally, most recently with exhibitions in Los Angeles, Berlin, Chicago, Houston, New York, and Zurich. He is the author with **Mieke Bal** of *Sleeping Beauty: A One-Artist Dictionary* (2008) and with **Reto Geiser** of *Reading Revolutionaries* (2014). On the occasion of his solo exhibition *Shatter, Corbett vs. Dempsey* published the monograph *John Sparagana*, covering five series completed between 2016–2019.