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Charles McGee Wins First Kresge Eminent Artist Award

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DETROIT—**Charles McGee**, 84, has been awarded the **Kresge Foundation's** first annual **Kresge Eminent Artist Award**, reports the *Detroit Free Press*. The \$50,000 prize, created by the Troy, Michigan–based foundation as part of its recently announced plan to give \$8.8 million to support the arts in southeastern Michigan, recognizes a local artist for outstanding and longstanding contributions to art in Detroit.

McGee is a multi-media artist whose work marries modernist and primitivist aesthetics, as well as abstraction and figuration; his pieces often include bold colors and have a jazzy, rhythmic feel. In 1969, he started an art school for kids and **Gallery 7**, a cooperative space that was the first gallery in Detroit to show black and white artists side by side. He co-founded the **Contemporary Art Institute of Detroit** in 1978, taught at **Eastern Michigan University** for 18 years, and still teaches one day a week at the **Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center**.