

Marc Selwyn Fine Art is pleased to present *William Wegman: He took two pictures. One came out*, an exhibition of the artist's text based black and white photographs from the 1970's. The show features vintage prints, as well as prints made from recently discovered vintage negatives. A small catalogue, published on the occasion of the exhibition, includes writings, contact sheets, and other source material from Wegman's archive, and offers a unique look at both Wegman's early work and conceptual art movement developing in Los Angeles at that time.

As Wegman writes in his introduction to the catalogue,

"In the fall of 1973 I moved rather abruptly from Los Angeles to New York. John Baldessari, who lived nearby, took over my Santa Monica studio with the expectation that I would return eventually. But I never did. One day he called to remind me that I had left a large cardboard box of stuff that I really should have. I kept forgetting to pick it up. Finally, in 1991, he sent it to me.

Good fortune. In the box were photo pieces and negatives from the early 70's. A fire in my New York studio in 1978 had wiped out all my work from that period, both prints and negatives. In 1979 I started to work with the Polaroid 20 x 24 camera and for the next 25 years this process and camera dominated my work. The early 70's had all but perished, except in my memory. It wasn't until almost 20 years later, when Polaroid was winding down, that I really returned to the work of this period. Loan requests for the Pacific Standard Time shows initiated by the Getty, along with the interest of my assistant Jason Burch, compelled me to delve back into this work and to have a look in the box.

Among the negatives were a number of frames of typed text, sequences of non-sequiturs on a stash of Princess Cruise Line stationery that I had become very attached to. I remember typing out little tales, modulations of the everyday with twists, palindromes, and deadpan word play, but also texts to be used in photo works. With some detective work we were able to match image to text and to finally print the works so carefully planned in my Santa Monica studio. Looking through these contact sheets and the pages of Princess Cruise Line stationery I see handwritten notes and sketches for photo pieces here and there, artifacts of the moment when my head began to spin.

Born in Holyoke, Massachusetts, in 1943, Wegman received a BFA from the Massachusetts College of Art, Boston and an MFA from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. His work has been exhibited extensively both in the United States and abroad, including solo exhibitions at the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (1982); San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (1988); the Stedelijk Museum (1990); the Centre Georges Pompidou (1991); Whitney Museum of American Art (1992); Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (2001); and The Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto (2002). The traveling retrospective *William Wegman: Funney/Strange* (catalogue/ Yale University Press) initiated by the Addison Gallery of Art, Andover in 2006 traveled to the Brooklyn Museum; the

Smithsonian American Art Museum and the Wexner Center for the Arts. The most recent exhibition of Wegman's work, *Hello Nature: How to Draw, Paint, Cook and Find your Way* (catalogue/Prestell) opened at the Bowdoin College Museum of Art in the summer of 2012 and travels this summer to Artipelag in Stockholm, Sweden.

An opening reception for the artist will be held at the gallery on May 4th from 6 - 8 pm. For information about the exhibition or the gallery, please contact Alisun Woolery at 323.933.9911 or [alisun@marcselwynfineart.com](mailto:alisun@marcselwynfineart.com). Please also find further documentation on our website: [www.marcselwynfineart.com](http://www.marcselwynfineart.com).