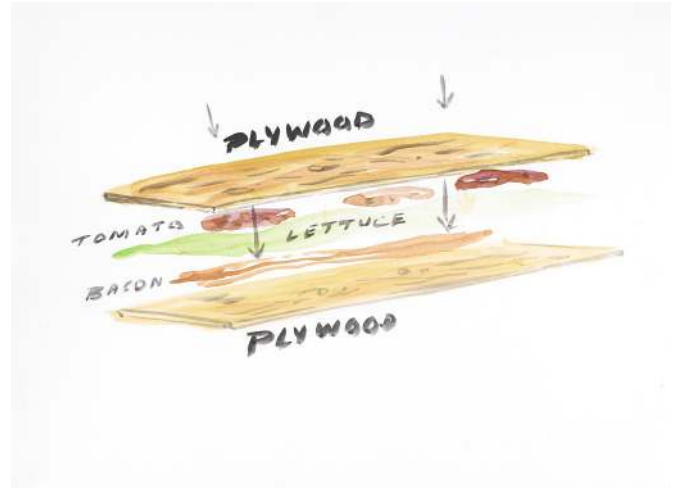


## William Wegman Drawing by Artist

10 March - 22 April 2023



PLYWOOD SANDWICH (1983) WILLIAM WEGMAN

Huxley-Parlour are delighted to present an exhibition of drawings by renowned artist, William Wegman. Relying on puns, homonyms, and visual symmetries, Wegman's drawings operate in close dialogue with his conceptual photography and video work of the 1970s. Described by critic Joan Simon as making 'words pursue images', Wegman's drawings use linguistic rules against themselves, to create irreverent, quiet, and surreal works.

William Wegman is best known for his conceptual photography involving the weimaraner Man Ray, and the family of weimaraners who followed. He has also worked fluidly across a number of mediums throughout his artistic career: from photography and short video, to painting and drawings. Described as 'sketches of ideas', Wegman's drawings are informal and humorous, yet they are also overwhelmingly conceptual in nature, prefacing strength of concept over aesthetic prowess.

Having moved to Los Angeles in 1970, Wegman's conceptual practice emerged as part of a milieu of artists similarly motivated by order, absurdism, and popular culture, canonised as the West Coast Conceptual Art movement. His contemporaries included artists such as John Baldessari, Ed Ruscha, and Al Ruppertsberg, all of whose practice engaged in the core tenets of the conceptual art movement - a prefacing of theoretical premise over form - whilst satirising the sober, academicism of their counterparts in New York.

Wegman's drawings, upbeat and irreverent, highlight a fundamental equivalence between conceptual art and humour: a fundamental, semiotic component, capitalising on rules, written and

visual symmetries, and linguistic anomalies to create quietly arresting and amusing works. Wegman's enduring self-awareness, ambitious and surreal approach to conceptual ideas, and his relentless reconciliation of the banal and the surreal coalesce in these works.

William Wegman was born in Holyoke, Massachusetts in 1943. He received a BFA from the Massachusetts College of Art, Boston and an MFA in painting from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign in 1967. Wegman has been the recipient of two Guggenheim Fellowships and two National Endowment for the Arts grants and his work has been exhibited in museums and galleries across the world. These have included the seminal exhibitions *When Attitudes Become Form* and *Documenta V*, as well as a retrospective organised by the Kunstmuseum Lucerne in 1990, which travelled to museums including the Centre Pompidou, Paris and The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York. Recent exhibitions include *William Wegman and California Conceptualism*, at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 2018, and *Being Human*, which recently concluded an international four year tour. His most recent publication '*William Wegman: Writing by Artist*', edited by Andrew Lampert and published by Primary Information in 2022, included many of the drawings in this exhibition.

## Notes to Editors

Drawing by Artist  
William Wegman  
10th March - 22th April 2023  
HUXLEY-PARLOUR, Maddox Street

HUXLEY-PARLOUR, 45 Maddox Street, W1S 2PE  
Opening hours      Monday to Friday, 10:00am - 5:30pm  
                                 Saturday, 10:00am - 1:00pm

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