

## Noted photographer/videographer Wegman to visit campus, present lecture

9/08/14



The Alfred University (AU) Visiting Artist Committee will host noted photographer/videographer William Wegman Thursday, Sept. 18 at 6 p.m. in Holmes Auditorium, Harder Hall for a public lecture; admission is free.

Wegman is best known for his photographs of canines - more specifically, his own dogs, Man Ray and, later, Fay Ray and her puppies, and their puppies after that. These photographs inspired him to write several children's books including: "Cinderella," "Little Red Riding Hood," "ABC Goose," "Farm Days," "My Town," "Surprise Party," and "Chip Wants a Dog."

His videos include "Alphabet Soup," "Fay's Twelve Days of Christmas," and "Mother Goose." In 1995, Wegman's film, "The Hardly Boys," was screened at the Sundance Film Festival. After a 20-year hiatus, Wegman returned to the format of his video work from the '70s producing two new series of video works in 1998 and 1999. A collection of his selected video works from 1970-99 was recently released on DVD by Artpix.

Wegman has also created several film and video works for "Saturday Night Live" and Nickelodeon, as well as continued a regular video segment on "Sesame Street" since 1989.

He also keeps busy with myriad solo exhibitions. Last year, his work was displayed in Houston; New York City; Salem, MA; Bellingham, WA; Los Angeles, and Westport, CT.

The Wegman events at AU are supported by the Marlin Miller Fund for Excellence in the Arts.

Wegman taught at the University of Wisconsin from 1968-70. In the fall of 1970 he moved to Southern California where he taught for a year at California State College-Long Beach. While there, he acquired his dog, Man Ray, with whom he began a long and fruitful collaboration. Man Ray, known in the art world and beyond for his endearing deadpan presence, became a central figure in Wegman's photographs and videotapes.

Man Ray died in 1981. It was not until 1986 that Wegman got a new dog, Fay Ray, and another collaboration began marked by Wegman's extensive use of the Polaroid 20 x 24 camera. With the birth of Fay's litter in 1989, Wegman's cast grew to include Fay's offspring - Battina, Crooky and Chundo - and later, their offspring: Battina's

son Chip in 1995, Chip&s son Bobbin in 1999, and Candy and Bobbin&s daughter Penny in 2004.

Out of Wegman&s involvement with this cast of characters grew a series of childrens& books inspired by the dogs& various acting abilities. Wegman has also published a number of books for adults including “Man&s Best Friend,” “Fashion Photographs,” and “William Wegman 20 x 24,” “Fay,” and *The New York Times* bestseller “Puppies.”

Numerous retrospectives of Wegman's work have been made, among them “Wegman's World” and “William Wegman: Paintings, Drawings, Photographs, Videotapes.”

Wegman lives in New York and Maine where he continues to make videos, to take photographs, and to make drawings and paintings.

He earned a bachelor of fine arts degree in painting from the Massachusetts College of Art, Boston, and a master of fine arts degree in painting from the University of Illinois-Champaign-Urbana.