



WILLIAM WEGMAN (b. 1943)

Alder

Polaroid Polacolor print, mntnd

26 x 20 3/4 in (34 1/2 x 30 1/4 x 1 1/2 in.)

unique

1990

29539

PROVENANCE:

Sotheby's New York: Monday, June 21, 2010 [Lot 00047], Photographs from the Polaroid Collections
Private Collection, Illinois

EXHIBITION:

DeLand, Florida, Museum of Art, *It's a Dog's Life: Photographs by William Wegman from the Polaroid Corporation*, January-March 2004, and traveling to 13 other venues through 2009

William Wegman is an artist best known for creating series of compositions involving dogs, primarily his own Weimaraners in various costumes and poses. Wegman reportedly originally intended to pursue a career as a painter. He received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in painting from Massachusetts College of Art in 1965 and a Master of Fine Arts degree in painting from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1967. While teaching at California State University, Long Beach, he acquired the first and most famous of the dogs he photographed, a Weimaraner he named Man Ray (after the artist and photographer). Man Ray later became so popular that the Village Voice named him "Man of the Year" in 1982. He named a subsequent dog Fay Ray (a play on the name of actress Fay Wray).

Wegman's photos are well respected in the art world, are held in permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Hammer Museum, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Centre Pompidou and the Smithsonian American Art Museum. His photos and videos have also been a popular success, and have appeared in books, advertisements, films, as well as on television programs like Sesame Street and Saturday Night Live. In 2006, Wegman's work was featured in a retrospective at the Brooklyn Museum, the Smithsonian American Art Museum, the Norton Museum of Art, and the Addison Gallery of American Art. The Brooklyn Museum explored 40 years of Wegman's work in all media in the 2006 retrospective William Wegman: Funny/Strange. The exhibition also ran at the Wexner Center for the Arts in 2007.

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