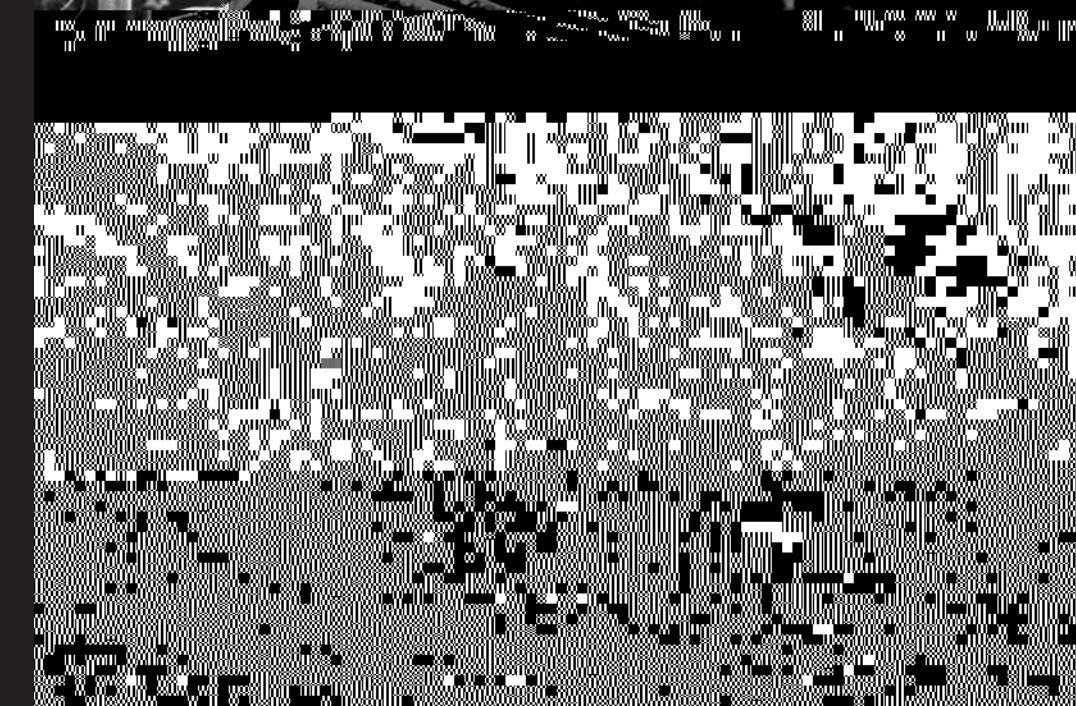


# Willia



William Wegman, *Hope*, 1985  
Oil on canvas  
20 1/4 x 25 1/4 in.

William Wegman, *Drying*, 1975  
Watercolor on paper  
8 1/2 x 11 in.

William Wegman, *Video Tape Reels*, 1973  
Pencil on paper  
8 1/2 x 11 in.

William Wegman, *Untitled*, 1973  
Silver gelatin print  
14 x 11 in.

William Wegman, *Untitled (Bill with chair)*, 1973  
Gouache on silver gelatin print  
13 1/4 x 10 1/2 in.

## Curtis L. Carter

Always in search of new directions for his art, William Wegman once floated styrofoam commas down the Milwaukee River.<sup>1</sup> This event, which became the subject of a photograph, took place during a three-year teaching stint at various Wisconsin colleges just after he graduated from the University of Illinois at Champaign in 1967. Like the floating commas set free in the stream, Wegman's creative intuitions freely attached themselves to uncharted projects that would soon establish his approach to the evolving concepts and art practices of the late twentieth century. Blessed with a wide range of conceptually driven skills, Wegman works in all visual media including drawing, painting, photography, and video.

Like Marcel Duchamp and Man Ray before him, Wegman explores in his art the untapped features of both conventional and unconventional materials. Like Ray Johnson,<sup>2</sup> a fellow conceptual artist with an equally fertile imagination, Wegman functioned in an era when anything—found objects, photography, words, video, and mixed media as well as more traditional means such as drawing and painting—were available for making art. While Johnson, who founded the New York Correspondence School, used the mail as his primary mode of art communication, Wegman turned first to photography and video, before returning to drawing and painting. Wegman differs from many conceptual artists because his art is accessible through its emotional or logical poignancy. The message varies, of course, depending on the experience and knowledge of the viewer. Virtually every piece, however provocative its didactic cc,  
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