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PRESS RELEASE

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WILLIAM WEGMAN: COLOR PHOTOGRAPHS

October 31 - January 4, 1987

Eleven large-scale Polaroid photographs by William Wegman (born 1943) display the artist's ironic wit and his ability to cause humorous shifts in our perception. All the works are one-of-a-kind photographs taken during the past six years with a 20-x-24-inch Polaroid camera, which produces instant color prints on Polacolor film.

Wegman's images often contain visual puns or irrational setups that make viewers take a second look at a photograph in an attempt to make sense of it. His work reminds viewers that what we expect to see often colors our interpretation of what is actually there. At first glance, Lounge Lizards appears to show two men playing an upright piano--then we see that the piano is lying on its back, forcing the duo to play sideways.

Wegman, who draws and has worked as a video and conceptual artist, is best known for comical portraits of his pet weimaraner, Man Ray (1970-1982). Man Ray poses obediently, gazing at the camera with mournful eyes, as Wegman uses simple props to bring about transformations in the dog's identity. The exhibition includes six of these portraits including Elephant, in which Man Ray appears with tusks and a long, gray sock curving up from his snout.

The works are on loan from Holly Solomon Gallery, New York; Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco; and BankAmerica Corporate Art Collection, San Francisco. Organized by curator of contemporary art Tom Hinson, the exhibition is part of an ongoing series presenting contemporary photography in Gallery D.

For additional information or black-and-white photographs, please contact the Public Information Office, The Cleveland Museum of Art, 11150 East Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44106; 216/421-7340.