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Creative Time Brings Man's Best Friend to Times Square with William Wegman's *Dog Duet* and *Front Porch* in *The 59th Minute*

October 30, 2002: Creative Time and Panasonic are proud to announce two seminal video works by **William Wegman**, *Dog Duet* and *Front Porch*, as part of *The 59th Minute: Video Art on the Times Square Astrovision*. Starting on **November 6, 2002** and continuing through **January 22, 2003**, William Wegman, a pioneer in the fields of moving image, performance, and photography, charms us with his signature Weimaraners and his deadpan humor in the world's media capital.

Since the 1970s, William Wegman has used irony and wit in his work to comment on American culture, reflecting on our society's contemporary routines and the cultures from which they stem. *Dog Duet* (excerpt, 1974) and *Front Porch* (1999) are deceptively simple videos that manage to captivate public audiences even in the frenetic, theatrical context of Times Square.

In *Dog Duet*, two of Wegman's dogs sit side by side as they keenly follow an object moving behind the camera that is finally revealed to be a ball. Like good tennis players, Wegman's models never take their eyes off the ball. Meanwhile we, as third-party viewers, become transfixed by this game of pursuit and unwittingly fall for the chase.

Front Porch, which was shot at the artist's residence in Maine, is a more recent video of Wegman's dog Chundo, dressed in flannel and jeans, sitting in a rocking chair, and reading the local paper. *Front Porch* conveys contemporary life's complexities: as Chundo carefully reads the paper in the heart of Times Square, we are reminded of the constant evolution of media and its pervasive presence in our daily lives.

In Times Square, where hundreds of thousands of people from all over the world visit weekly, Wegman uses a universal vocabulary of animals and role-play to make us laugh.

William Wegman

William Wegman is known for his performance and conceptual art, photography, drawings, paintings, and videos, all of which use irony masterfully and many of which feature his world-renowned Weimaraners. In 1970, as the result of a prophetic coin toss, Wegman bought his first Weimaraner, Man Ray, and the two discovered a shared passion for the camera. This collaboration continued with Wegman's second Weimaraner Fay and her offspring, who remain the models in much of Wegman's wry, unique work in which dogs are stand-ins for—and mirrors of—their human audience.



N.Y.S.E., 1995. Photograph by William Wegman © William Wegman.



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Wegman was born in Holyoke, Massachusetts in 1943, lives in New York and Maine, and is represented by the Christine Burgin Gallery in New York City. In 1969, two years after he received his MFA in painting from the University of Illinois Champagne-Urbana, Wegman participated in 4 group exhibitions whose venues included the Kunsthalle Bern in Switzerland and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago. In 1983, a retrospective of his work began at the Kunstmuseum in Lucerne and traveled to museums in Europe and the United States including the Pompidou Center and the Whitney Museum of American Art. In addition to exhibiting in museums and galleries, Wegman has published an extensive body of work including “Farm Days,” “Fay,” and “How Do You Get to MoMaQns?” and has created film and video works for Saturday Night Live, Nickelodeon, and Sesame Street. Wegman has received many awards and grants including from the National Endowment for the Arts in 1976 and 1985, the New York Foundation for the Arts Honor in 1999, and the Guggenheim Fellowship in 1975 and 1986.

Through November 16, 2002, Printed Matter, Inc. presents *William Wegman: Indian in the Refrigerator and Other Printed Works*, *William Wegman: Selected Video Works 1970-78*, and *Dog Baseball*, 1986, as well as Wegman’s most recent video works: *Reel 8*, 1997-98 and *Reel 9*, 1999. www.printedmatter.org.

William Wegman is also currently included in a group show, *Art Inside Out*, through September 2003 at the Children’s Museum of Manhattan. www.cmom.org.

Creative Time

For nearly 30 years, Creative Time has presented adventurous public arts projects of all disciplines. From the Brooklyn Bridge Anchorage, Grand Central Terminal, Times Square, and *Tribute in Light* to milk cartons, billboards, and skywriting over New York City, Creative Time has a long and distinguished history of commissioning and presenting innovative art that invigorates the public realm. Times Square is the site of one of Creative Time’s most renowned projects, *The 42nd Street Project*, for which the organization commissioned twenty artists in 1993 to create works for derelict marquees, storefronts, and vacancies in Times Square during its redevelopment. Returning to Times Square, *The 59th Minute* exemplifies how public/private partnerships can invigorate the urban landscape and enhance the experience of New York for natives and visitors alike. For more information on Creative Time please visit www.creativetime.org.

Panasonic

The NBC Astrovision by Panasonic is the visual centerpiece of New York City’s Times Square, the “Crossroads of the World.” Measuring nearly three stories high and four stories wide, the screen – which contains 1.5 million light-emitting diodes (LEDs) is capable of displaying more than a billion shades of color. Each year, millions of people see the Astrovision either on television, in the movies, or when they visit Times Square. And, every New Year’s Eve, the landmark video screen helps the more than 500,000 Times Square revelers count down the famous ball drop. Panasonic is the best known brand of New Jersey-based Matsushita Electric Corporation of America, which is the principal North American subsidiary of Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd. (MEI) (NYSE: MC). Additional information can be found by visiting www.panasonic.com.



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****The 59th Minute* airs on the last minute of every hour from 6 am – 1 am seven days a week with the exception of two daily preemptions for the *NBC Today Show* (7 – 10 am) and the *Nightly News* (6:30 – 7 pm), and for breaking news or special events in Times Square.

Upcoming Creative Time projects:

Holiday Light Shows, November 19, 2002: In celebration of the holidays, Creative Time and Häagen Dazs present six artists' video works on the vaulted ceiling of New York City's landmark Grand Central Terminal **through December 31, 2002.**

What Is What, Winter 2003: Creative Time will present sidewalk performances by dancer Bill Shannon, a.k.a. the CrutchMaster, in which he will engage and interact with a public street audience.

The 59th Minute, February 2003: Creative Time and Panasonic present the 11th artist in our ongoing series on the Times Square Astrovision. Artist TBD.

PDPal, Spring 2003: Creative Time will offer a PDA program by Marina Zurkow, Scott Paterson, and Julian Bleecker that allows users to map their movement throughout the city.

Hear New York, Spring 2003: With curator Danny Kapilian, Creative Time presents *Hear New York* in which New York artists, Gabri Christa, Toshi Reagon, and Everton Sylvester, explore the cultural heritage of their neighborhoods in a series of performances which will culminate with a CD release.

Art on the Plaza, April 2003: Creative Time presents the third installation in the long-term public sculpture series on the Plaza of The Ritz-Carlton New York, Battery Park. Artist TBD.

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