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Kurutz, Steven. "A Tour of William Wegman's Studio in Chelsea." *www.nytimes.com* (*The New York Times*), 6 April 2016.

The New York Times



The artist William Wegman lives and works in a fortresslike building in Chelsea. His two Weimaraners, Flo and Topper, are not only pets but frequent subjects of his work. "These two are really good at being up on things rather than lying flat on things," he said, "which my other dogs were really great at." All photos Shawn Brackbill for The New York Times

Name William Wegman

Age 72

Occupation Artist and author, most recently of "William Wegman Paintings"

Location Manhattan

Favorite Room Mr. Wegman lives in a fortresslike building in Chelsea that was formerly a day school, a space he shares with his wife, Christine Burgin, and two Weimaraners, Flo and Topper.

What was your greatest artistic breakthrough in this room? I think dealing with postcards. I attach them to the canvas. I go off from the edges and try to make them get lost in the surface.

Are these paintings works in progress? All these things are here because I'm still working on them. Paintings get built slowly. They're easy to start, impossible to finish.

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This white chair held together with duct tape must have a story. This chair in particular was in a piece called “Throwing Down Chairs,” so it got kind of smashed. John Baldessari, who took over the studio space I had in Los Angeles when I left for New York, mailed it back to me. It was really cool that he would do that.



You moved to the city in 1973. What were your first studios like? My first space was \$200 a month for 2,500 square feet. Briefly, I had 7,000 square feet for \$350 a month, down below the Trade Center. I don't know if I could really manage it now. I didn't love New York when I came here. I really thought I'd be going back to L.A., where I lived a block from the beach with my dog, and I was really happy. I was never really happy in New York.



He creates much of his work in a large room with a skylight and soundproof windows. “It’s a different world when I come in here,” he said. Mr. Wegman has a new book, “William Wegman: Paintings,” and a six-week exhibition, titled “William Wegman: Postcard Paintings,” which will be on display at the Sperone Westwater Gallery until April 23.

Are you still unhappy in New York? Moving here changed that. The other key thing is I started playing ice hockey, and I’m a couple of blocks from the Chelsea Piers. I also have a hockey net up on the roof here where I shoot pucks.

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You're known for using your dogs in your work. How are Flo and Topper as models? Flo gives you a lot of psychology. When she's up there, she's thinking. When he's up on something, he's just there. Like a mountain goat.



Unhappy for years living in New York City, Mr. Wegman said that changed when he moved to his current house and began playing hockey again. He practices his shooting skills on the roof.



Mr. Wegman is a big hockey fan and plays in a league with his son. When he turned 70, his teammates gave him this jersey.



In recent years, Mr. Wegman has used postcards in his work, attaching them to the canvas and going "off from the edges" to make the cards "get lost in the surface."



Tubes of paint, carefully arranged by his wife, Christine Burgin. "I'm very messy and my wife is very neat," he said. "She comes in and arranges the paint."