

# BILL WESTHEIMER

American, b. 1952

*Wilted Fern 1*

2009

Bill Westheimer is best known for his work with photograms, including collodion glass plate photography. This wet-plate negative shows two decaying objects: the fern and the photogram itself. What is interesting about the photogram is that it preserves the state of decay of the fern for the future--at least, for as long as the photogram survives. The use of a photogram instead of a contemporary photograph is also interesting, since the medium itself could be classified as decaying, and easily replaced via modern techniques.