

49 West 12th St, N.Y.
October 23rd, 1924.

Laurie Dearest:

I've put off writing you, because I knew I should be dining with Mrs K. and her daughter this evening, and I knew you'd like to have Mrs K.'s reactions to the proofs you sent me. She said last week, "Do bring them over. I'll understand that they're nothing but proofs, and a photographer might be able to visualize the final result better than you."

So I took them, and of course with them, my lovely, lovely, lovely Iris. Dear, it was so sweet of you to make that exquisite print for me, when you were so busy with other things. It is an absolutely perfect thing, and you may imagine how I cherish it. Shall take it to the framer's tomorrow, so it won't run any more danger of being hurt here in the studio, and so I can hang it on the wall where it may always be seen. Mrs K. just gasped when she saw it. "O, how beautiful! O, what a heavenly thing. And such masterly workmanship! That line of light down the leaf is marvelous. What a Poem!" Etc, etc, and I echoing her.

It was delightful to see the joy she took in it. Kept getting up and studying it all through the evening. Am I grateful to you?

Of Batch A., she liked best of all Nos 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15. She hopes you won't take out any of the cows in 4, as she likes the line they make. Thinks the gradations in the hills beyond a real achievement. No 6, she characterises as "magnificent". And it was, and you got it. Of no 7, she said, "How like Laura to place that little group just there! How well she understands the value of giving scale by such means. This is very fine." And she liked the mining camp, No 9, saying it suggested so much variety of form and color, and was very interesting historically, showing what man had done to those mountains I think she loved all the landscape ones, but No 10 was a particular favorite. Thought the curve of the road very lovely. She spoke with interest of the distance and perspective you got in the Laguna, No 13. And she got quite excited over the No 14, with the woman going into the mission. "The movement she has caught in that figure, and what a pattern of shapes, and of sunlight and shadow!" Said No 15 was fairly dazzling in its sunshine. I said I was a little sorry the child in the modern white dress was standing just there, but she didn't agree with me. Said that psychologically the modern note was most interesting, and wholly in keeping. And, come to think of it, I guess she's right.

Of Batch B., she liked best Nos 23, 24, 32, 37, 45, 47, 76, 78, 81, 82, 89, 92, 96, 97, 103, 104. The first of these is almost the same as No 10, but she said "Mark them both. It is hard to choose between them." Thinks that when 24 is printed deep enough you will have a wonderful thing of that tree-pattern. "O" said she, of 32, "How skillfully she brought in those light spots of the stones. This will make a magnificent print." And when I showed her 37, she decided, as I already had, that that is almost the finest of the lot. That is, until we came to 45. That is supreme. There's my Laurie, expressing the desert as nobody has expressed it before. I'm so proud of that one. It is more than an interpretation, it is a creation. Mrs K. found 47 very beautiful and suggestive, too. The Indian mother and babe grew on her the more she studied it. "Mark that", said she. No 78 is so fine that I can't be very mournful about the Mexican walking across and spoiling

No 79, though of course the horses would have been nice. She studied 81 a long time. It gave her great pleasure. And she liked very much the pattern of 82. Of Juan at the cave, 89 impressed her more than the others, though she rather liked Batch A.21, too. Didn't object to the bush. Of Juan in Taos, 92 was rather naturally her choice. "This will make a stunning thing," said she. I also liked the other one in his white sheet, (can't make out whether it is 89 or 90. with a very simple background, just a tiny barred window in one corner. The posing of 96 she said was extremely good, and the shadow most satisfying. We both felt 97 was the best of the old boy on horse-back. She thought the section of horse amusing and interesting. No 103, Ovens, grew on her, as it did on me, until we can hardly wait to see a big print of it. It is finely simple. I prefer it, as a work of art, to 104, but of course that does tell the most comprehensive story of the village and the way it is assembled. It will be a fine one to have for record.

Well, dear, I just want to add that I also am rather keen about a few of the others, such as Batch A 11, and Batch B, 64, 144, 21, 22, 61, 69, 71, 72, 73, 94, 106. So I'd say, take it all in all, you'd accomplished a great deal, and much more than you imagine at the present moment.

Your mother writes me you got a fat order for booklets of the Day Nursery, and that pleases me immensely.

I ought to stop typing, as it's 'most 11 o'clock, but I do want to finish this and get it off to you. Life is in a turmoil again. Everything coming at once. Katharine Mayor, A.V.H.'s niece, is coming next Monday, to be with me until the 1st of the year. She's a charming girl and I could not hope to find any nicer person to share the bedroom. She'll be away most all day at a dressmaking school. Shall probably have two new pupils Nov 1st, as the daughter of Elliott Daingerfield wants to join Ethel and Katharine Lane, and have some anatomy.

Have just heard from the Grand Central Galleries that I have been chosen to make a bust of their President, Walter E. Clark. This is not a commission, you understand, but my "offering" as a sort of membership fee. I've seen him once or twice and think he will be quite interesting to do.

Have almost finished Marie, but aside from that have not accomplished much. Took my plaster of Bauer up to the Association rooms the other day, and was completely discouraged. I shall have to make another.

The Cornelius' will be arriving in installments next week. Mr and Mrs Moses on Wednesday, and the voyagers probably Saturday. Hope I can find them a place to lay their heads. The Hotels are jammed.

Must be off to bed, Laurie dear. How is your new pupil working into it? Seem promising? I've been asked to be speaker at an annual art-lovers luncheon in Syracuse in January, but Nay, Nay, Pauline!

Goodnight,

your B. sendie
Will attend to the McKim business - but have been so rushed!

When is Frederick coming? When Mrs Hawkins?
The Kovalskeys ask if you'd be willing to make them a little print of me writing the log on the desert? And will you at the same time make one for me to send mother? No hurry.



Miss Laura Gilpin
6 East Willamette
Colorado Springs
Colorado

B. Putnam - 49 W 12, New York