

356 West 22nd St
August 29th '32

Laurie Dear:

Is the Official Photographer of the Central City Theatrical Festival still on the job and being worked to death? I must suppose so - your silence has been such a long one. O, I'm not kicking, darlin', - I'm just that keen to know how everything has been going. Was the venture a success? Did they play to packed houses? Are they still at it? Are they putting on new plays each week, and do you photograph them all? And how did your portraits of Miss Gish turn out? I just can't wait to see. She has ~~so~~ such elusive charm I should think it might have been very difficult to catch. Are you & R. E. Jones bosom pals by now? He ought to appreciate what you're doing.

And has "Fortune" taken your Sisal set, or any other taken the ruins? And has your Dad got any new jobs. And have you been with Bets at all this summer? And have you a maid? And have you a dog? Etc, etc.

Me - I've been home ten days now, fat and brown from Maine cooking and sun. Got away on the 8th of July, leaving my "Midsommer" in Basky's hands. Ward photographed it in the day, & I've just acquired some prints of it which I'm mailing you first thing tomorrow. The front view makes the legs look awkward, because they're so foreshortened. But I don't think they are, really. I wish his camera had been a little higher. As I intend to place her, she'll be quite low, so that the eye travels all over her and doesn't get such an impression of front, sides, & back. How does she strike you?

And now, Laurie, I've got something to confess - something that hurts. You know how we'd always planned to exhibit together whenever I got round to having my "One-man" show.

Well, I certainly wanted to - but here's the rub. I've just about got to have my show soon. And I can't afford, in these times, to rent a gallery. Nothing is selling in sculpture. But I find I can have a show at Grand Central Galleries free, because I'm a member. They offer me either January, February, or March. But - they show only members' work. Would you mind very much if I went ahead and had this one without you? It really does

seem necessary, & a chance I should not forego. With "Midsummer", "Puck", "Mischievous Faun" & "Pigeon Girl", & the Huntington's "Sundial" — I'll have enough big things. And the "Joseph & Mary", a couple of baby fountains, my musician's heads & two probable new ones — Gabriłowitch & Amelia Earhart Putnam (if they'll sit for me) — and one new garden figure which I'm just starting on (a child with a hoop) — and the little new Forbes-Robertson, I think I have enough to make a decent showing. What do you think?

I'm planning to go out to Baillie's next week and patch up the plaster of "Puck" and the Sea-horse Sundial. Horrid job, but it has to be done, & I want to get it out of the way incase any commission should roll in & take my time. Then I'll begin to hound Gabriłowitch again, & Amelia, & see what luck I have with them.

Had a small job this past week — a women's club wanted a cement figure for a small terrace, & they've chosen a cast of my "Child in the Vineyard". They pay only a pittance, but it's a swell club (The York), & there should be good publicity in it. Have been busy adding a fig-leaf (or rather, a grape-vine) to my

infant, so as not to shock any one of the \$500 women! Absurd, isn't it? And Bucky is to make the cement cast this week.

Shirley & Eliot have had a wonderfully busy & successful summer. He had a class of 30 for the 6 week course, & has now about 10 more for a 2 week extension course. Their exhibitions have attracted literally thousands - from all over the country, & several things (not Eliot's) were sold. Shirley's gift shop, too, has done quite well, & she's been hecticly busy. The youngsters are brown & hearty, & such fun. I had only a few days with them, but they were full to the brim. Dad will be coming through here ~~the~~ end of the week on his way to Washington - but I don't know whether he'll do more than stop over between trains to see a man on business.

The Herways were down here for dinner a few nights ago. They've been in town all summer, except for a couple of brief visits, and she shows the strain of it more than he. But the little girl is having a grand time at Camp, so they feel the sacrifice was worth it.

Must to bed, old dear. Do write when you can. There's so much I want to hear about.

So much love - Brendie



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