

720 Riverside Drive, New York 31, NY.
October 15, 1948.

Dear Laura:

Your letter of the 13th came today. I think it's wonderful what an adventurous life you lead! Best of all though, is the fact that New York is still on your itinerary. We are all looking forward to your being here.

I hope that the Museum of Modern Art exhibition does go through. To have a big show of your prints in New York will be great. Of course the Town Hall Club has nothing like such prestige to offer. But a show held at the Club at the same time as a show in some more important place, would add weight to the big show, and would of course benefit by the big show too. We could probably not manage as many as 125 prints in any case, though we would do what we could. And if we could have you for a reception at the time of the exhibition, it would be very swell.

As to the show itself. Any group of your things would be good for us. The show you had at Chautauqua would be very fine. Or the new Yucatan things - especially if they were linked up with the forthcoming book. Or a group of Navaho and Mesa Verde prints. (A whole exhibition of Mother-and-Child of the Desert motives would make a great hit.) The Aircraft things would interest many of the men. And so on. You see that anything you may have to show will be very welcome.

As to the date. From your time-table, I take it that you will expect to be settled in a work-shop somewhere in New York, if you can find it, in January. Would you in that case have a show ready for the Town Hall Club by February? I suppose it would hardly be before February anyway. In that case I will be fixing the December and January shows, and hoping that we have an LG exhibition in February - and perhaps have LG herself at that time as well. This is, of course tentative, because you cannot be quite sure how your own time-table is going to work out. And while we should like to have a show that synchronizes with a Museum of Modern Art show, we will be content with what we can get.

Speaking of my retirement: I have come to realize why so many men drop dead soon after retiring: they die from overwork. I have never been so busy in my life as I have been since I've had my "well earned leisure."

Good luck to you from all of us!

As ever,

James William

LATER: I've talked over the phone with Brenda, and gotten the latest news from you, via your recent letter to her. We're all glad you think you may come this way in December. If you have a show that month, you would, I hope, be the Guest of Honor at a Town Hall Club Tea and Reception (which is a regular thing when the exhibiting artist can do it), which would be a good thing for the books and a delightful thing for us. Whether the exhibition were the book-photographs or others.

. JWE