

356 West 22nd St

New York 11

April 4th '98

O Laurie!

The beautiful book has come — and how do you expect me to get any work done? I pore and pore over it, delighting in finding many of my favorite early pictures, and then in finding so much that is new, and even more beautiful.

If only it didn't come just at a time when a thousand & one small obligations fill my days up to midnight and after every night — I want to sit quietly and read every word of the text, but I can't just now. Nor can I delay one hour longer writing to tell you of my jubilation over this superb creation of yours, or the way my heart just stopped beating (or then lumped up in my throat) as I read the dedication on page 4! Why, darling, I am touched beyond words! I don't deserve it, for 'tis little indeed that I can have taught you about form — but it makes me very proud and grateful.

You speak of "disaster" on page 80 — O no, dear! To you — the perfectionist, it may give a pang — but believe me, not one reader in a thousand will know that that blaze of white is not the very sun itself, bursting dramatically

through the clouds just as you took the picture!
It does not spoil it for us - so please don't worry.

And on the opposite page what a nice bit of description:
"the rattles of the snakes form decorative punctuation marks"! I know your text must be full of such choice bits - when I have time to concentrate on them. And I shall make time shortly, never fear.

Now you have brought out the weight of the stone and the grandeur of scale & proportion in every picture! When I look back through the years and trace your growth as an artist - I feel very humble. - & proud.

O I do hope you got a Guggenheim! I've not seen anything in the papers yet, but just may have missed it. One of my sculpture-protégées was turned down - but rejections were probably the first notices to be sent out. If ever anyone deserved one, you do.

I am a bit worried about the Rio Grande set-up as you outline it - but when I remember my efforts (& Dad's) of the past year, trying to get a publisher for "Sculptor's Way" - I cannot but feel that they are simply waiting for a break in the appalling physical costs of producing such a book as yours - not by any means abandoning the project. All publishers seem to be in the same boat. Don't forget mine would ~~be~~ never have found a publisher had it not been that Anne & Archer insisted on paying all costs of manufacture. How I wish they'd do the same by you - or somebody would.

I must get this off to you without more ado! Thank you from my heart.
And proud to know you! Over you & Wendie darling Laurie!