

March 26th

226 W 22 N.Y.

Laurie Dear:

At long last - a peaceful Sunday, and a bit of leisure in which to write! Things have been awful thick.

So thick, I haven't even been able to acknowledge those beautiful photos you (finally!) took of Eugene's Virgin.

It is quite lovely, and I wish I could see it sometime. How large is it? It is large in conception & treatment, ^{anyway} and with an insipid rhythm in the tilt of the head & the flow of the drapery, which I particularly like. The diagonal curve of the folds that come down from the head & cross over the throat make a lovely shape to frame the ~~head~~ ^{face}.

I feel as though she'd worked longer and more happily on the drapery than she did on the hands, which appear to me both weak in construction, and left half-finished.

The figure must carry very well from a distance, and I hope it has, in situ quo, as good a lighting as you have given it. She must be pleased, isn't she?

I wish we could transport the statue to New York, for an outdoor exhibition opening in May, by sculptors of the Nat'l Academy & Nat'l Sculptor Society.

There's a large vacant lot just off 5th Ave on 89th St, owned by the Academy, which we are

beginning to transform into a garden, with trees, hedges, grass-plots & paths, in which we expect to show some 60 pieces of outdoor sculpture. As the sculptor-members total about 250, a lot of them will necessarily be left out in the cold; but our Committee on Selection will just have to skim the cream - as we want to show the public that good sculpture can be just as interesting ^{if not quite so} entertaining, as the weird stuff the Artists Guild has shown in the past.

To my grief, I've been appointed Chairman of the Academy's end of things, though Harriet Fritchworth stands ready to step into my shoes by the end of April & carry on from there. The past two weeks have been devoted almost entirely to picking Committees & setting them to work on some of the many problems entailed.

My three plaques are practically done, though I was dissatisfied with Solon after I got him in plaster, & have remodelled the whole darn thing.

Am most awfully tired & frazzled with all the work, & with clashes of ideologies within the Societies which make meetings a misery for me. Also our Corresponding Secy has been ill, & I've had to pinch-hit for him. Woult I be glad when my year is up and I can resign!

England will be such a blessed relief from all this -

Saw the enclosed clipping in today's Herald-Tribune. Had you anticipated it, & do you know the man?

Bye - now, Laura dear - &
I hope all's well with you - Brendie