

March 4, 1974

Dear Laura,

We have been discussing the cherished hope that you will lecture and exhibit here during the 74-75 season. You and I barely discussed it last June, but since you responded so positively then, maybe the wheels can begin to move. Let me fill you in on suggestions and questions:

The chairperson, Barbara Bishop, and I concur in thinking the Virginia Museum should be interested in exhibiting the work of a native daughter of your distinction. Do you think it's possible for your publisher to send a complimentary copy of the Enduring Navaho to Mr. James Brown, Director, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Boulevard and Grove, Richmond Virginia 23221? Ms. Bishop would write Mr. Brown (He comes to Virginia from California and succeeded Leslie Chalk) a letter encouraging him to show your Navaho photos and asking how longwood could be coordinated with his plans regarding your ~~show~~ exhibition.

We have also thought that several colleges would be eager to show your work - University of Virginia and University of Richmond for example, and are you interested in showing in Winchester at the College of Music and Art? I know Bobby Parker the president there would be interested in having you.

- 1) Could you let us know if your New York gallery would circulate a show in Virginia, and at what financial arrangements?
- 2) What would be your fee for coming to talk to our girls when you come east & your family? I'll drive up to Winchester and fetch you! If Nixon allows some gas into Virginia by then. We are squeezed at this



point. the state budget has been rather drastically cut too so that we have to ask all the money questions in order & plan ahead!

I really miss all you hospitable people in Santa Fe. I thought of the Southwest especially from Nov 14 until the end of January. I let an asthma attack (it wasn't much of a thing) go ignored & some bronchial infection settled in & spend the winter with me. It was worse between Christmas & Jan. 15 but now I'm feeling finer again & should be off antibiotics in another week or so - anyway time - I'm glad it's over. Maybe I'll manage an early retirement between Santa Fe and Pecos or somewhere close enough for music and far enough out for quiet & fresh air.

I didn't see Una or anybody else over Christmas. I do hope she had a fine time. In September I visited The Lionel Wynne-Roberts in Monterey (Highland County). He knows your family well - his nephews "ran around with the Gilpin boys." Also, the next time you see Georgia O'Keeffe, he sends greetings. Asked me particularly if I had met her. He is a mere stripling of 83 and has warm memories of house parties her mother gave in Williamsburg. He told me "Georgie" was just a year or so older and chaperoned. Don't you think he must be the only living American who recalls Georgie O'Keeffe as a young lady chaperone for Tidewater Virginia house parties? That should amuse her. Calvin Tomkins did a sensitive profile of her in this week's New Yorker - where I keep up with your NYC shows. I enjoyed the image of her cooling off by lying down in irrigation ditches.

I look forward to hearing from you so that we know how to proceed according to your wishes & your gallery's restrictions. Hopefully, lack of them. I hope the winter was good for you & your camera. The buds are swelling here & jonquils & forsythia blooming, humah! None too soon for me.

The Ending Navaho has meant a great deal to me, and to choice friends -

Fondly, Betty