



WITKIN-BERLEY LIMITED

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April 26

*Dear Laura,
I thought you might
like to see what we have
been up to lately.
But wishes
Dan Berley*

April 16, 1976

Dear Collector:

We are pleased to announce the publication of our newest portfolio, THE BERENICE ABBOTT PORTFOLIO.

For this first portfolio of Miss Abbott's work we have chosen ten masterworks from her large and varied oeuvre. Three major areas are represented: her Paris portraits of the 1920's, her New York photographs of the 1930's and her scientific photographs of the 1950's. All of the prints of this limited edition were printed and processed by Miss Abbott, in her Maine studio, to the highest archival standards.

"Miss Abbott is a superior artist, one of the finest of her generation," wrote Hilton Kramer in his review of her recent exhibition in New York City. "... she brought to the photographic medium some of the same aspirations that made her generation, especially its writers, so central to American culture in this century...The portraits she made of artists and writers in Paris in the 20's -- the Joyce portraits, for example -- have fixed their subjects in our minds for all time. (Her) pictures of New York of the 30's are remarkable in the degree to which they retain even now (a) sense of discovery -- of something freshly seen and intensely valued...They have retained their immediacy (and) remain in a sense as 'new' today as when she took them."

Ada Louise Huxtable, the renowned architectural critic, reviewed the "Landscape/Cityscape" exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum for the New York Times, Nov. 25, 1973. The exhibit emphasized the classic cityscapes of Stieglitz, Sheeler, Strand and Berenice Abbott. She wrote: "... The photographer who saw the city most truly and whose work is still unequalled in the field is Berenice Abbott. She sought not one selective aspect, but the city as a whole. Her views of the 1930's and 40's never lose meaning -- if anything they gain. This because they do not stress the romantic or abstract image as their overriding aim; they are primarily penetratingly real...These pictures give you the city's cycle and substance, magnificently observed."

Each portfolio of this edition, which is limited to 50 copies, contains 10 prints. The prints are approximately 10½"x13½" and are dry mounted on 16"x20" acid-free museum board. To house the collection, when it is not on display, we have created an elegant portfolio case.

We enclose herewith a facsimile copy of the introductory booklet which will be included in each portfolio, together with reproductions of the prints. Hilton Kramer has written an introduction especially for this edition. An order form is also enclosed for your convenience. The portfolios are also available for viewing and purchase at The Witkin Gallery, 41 East 57th Street, N.Y. Special off-premises viewing can be arranged. Price: \$3000. per copy.

Yours truly,

Dan Berley

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY PRICE
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