

R.D. 2 Box 259
Red Hook, N.Y. 12571
July 20, 1976

Miss Laura Gilpin
409 Camino del Monte Sol
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Miss Gilpin:

I was delighted to receive your letter and look forward to receiving a cassette recording of your recollections of Gertrude Kasebier. I have found much printed information about her, but have few personal recollections of her outside of what I've learned from her daughter and granddaughter.

I regret to tell you that both Mrs. Hermine Turner and her daughter, Mina Turner, died within the past year. But if you would like to send me a polaroid copy of your unidentified portrait of Mrs. Kasebier perhaps I can tell you who made it.

Your recollections of Mrs. Kasebier will be of great interest to me, and I would like to encourage you to let me know first what seems to you most important about Mrs. Kasebier and her work. You undoubtedly have thoughts and memories which my questions cannot anticipate. I know relatively little about Mrs. Kasebier's activities between 1914 and 1920; I have often wondered whether the World War hampered her activities in any way, because I have found so little information about her at this time. It is my understanding that she ran her portrait studio during this time, and continued to do her own pictorial work, too. Do you recall whether she made the photograph "Married--Yoked and Muzzled" -- a picture of two children and a pair of yoked oxen -- when you knew her during the teens? Did she discuss her aesthetic goals with you? Did you work in her darkroom?

Other questions you might want to consider are: how you met, what sort of person she was (her appearance, voice, personality), how she conducted her business, what her studio looked like, and who her clients were. Did Mrs. Kasebier ever speak of the reason for her split with Alfred Stieglitz? Or of her years with the Photo-Secession group? It is my understanding from Mina Turner that Mr. Kasebier did not thoroughly approve of her photographic activities. Did Mrs. Kasebier ever speak of this to you?

In addition to hearing your recollections, I would very much appreciate your generosity in allowing me to read Xerox copies of your letters from Mrs. Kasebier. I would, of course, pay

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costs of xeroxing and taping your recollections.

I look forward to hearing from you; you can write to me at the above address through mid-September.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Barbara L. Michaels

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