

April 13, 1977

Miss Michelle A. Mertz
2766 Cooks Creek, #211
Dallas, Texas 75234

Dear Michelle;

In answer to your letter of March 25, you ask how hard is it for a woman to become a pro. My answer is it's just as difficult as it is for a man. And is it necessary to attend a school of photography; I advise strongly your going to school to learn specific knowledge about the basic medium, which some people think is superficial. If you are really serious about photography, you must learn to visualize your subject clear through to the finished print, and you must learn to do all your own work. It isn't easy to make prize-winning photographs, and if it is necessary for you to earn your living, I advise your finding some way to carry yourself along while you are learning. Don't make a portfolio until you have sufficient good work to have it for display.

If you are ever in this vicinity, I hope you will stop by my little gallery.

Very truly yours,

Laura Gilpin

LGsm

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