



Arif

Margaretta K. Mitchell 280 Hillcrest Road Berkeley California 94705

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

12 May 1977

Dear Laura Gilpin :

I am very excited about a book which David Bell, Editor in chief at Studio Books of Viking-Penguin, has has me to do with him. (He was editor on Georgia O'Keeffe book) The book will contain the words and work of a small group of great women photographers all of whom have lived for the last three quarters of the century. Enclosed is a preliminary list which is, of course, flexible. The book is not intended as a woman's book. It is simply that most of the women are not in the history books. At the moment, a separate volume is a true contribution to the history of photography. Even if you are preparing a monograph at this moment, the book in question would be of benefit

to you.

I feel very pleased to do this book having just completed the text of Imogen Cunningham's last book after Ninety (to be published next autumn by the U of Washington Press.) Since 1974 I have written a number of profile articles for Popular Photography Magazine on the following photographers: Nell Dorr, Mar 1975; and James Abbe, July '75; John Blaustein, July 1975; John Gutmann, Nov '76 (in Camera 35), and Frances McLaughlin-Gill + Kathryn Abbe (to be published). Most of these have been based on interviews.

I am a free-lance photographer, myself, specializing in portraits and teaching, to make a living. For the book I will develop a conversation from our interview, make a portrait and help you select your portfolio of prints for the book. There will be an introduction and bibliography as well as a chronology for each photographer.

3.

May I please come and see you, at your convenience during the next month or so? Perhaps a few days of the week of May 23rd or early June (6th - 9th?) I thought that I would come and visit with you periodically over several days so as not to put too much pressure on you (or me!) . also I am a friend of Ray Belcher and Paul Caponigro and want to visit with them also. You can ask them about me or ask Janet Adams as a reference, or reach David Bell at Viking - Penguin, 625 Madison Ave, New York, N. Y. (212-PE-5-4330) for any further information that might concern you about the book.

Last of all, I assure you that the book will be well-designed, the reproduction of the photographs will be duotone, and I will participate as fully as possible in every stage of the preparation and execution of the project. The frosting on the cake is a proposed Exhibition at a major museum - but more of that later.

meanwhile, I look forward to
hearing from you, my best wishes
and hopes for your participation
in this worthwhile project.

Thanks/Sincerely,
Greta Mitchell

415-655-4920

Some of the ^{other} proposed photographers:

Berenice Abbott

Ruth Bernhard

Carlotta M. Corson

Nell Dorr

Toni Frissell

Lotte Jacobi

Lisette Model

Barbara Morgan

Ruth Orkin

Louise Dahl-Wolfe

Dorothy Norman

Helen Levitt

Marion Palfi