



July 5, 1978

Ms. Laura Gilpin
409 Camino Del Monte Sol
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Ms. Gilpin:

Two weeks ago I was privileged to see an exhibition of your works at the Amon Carter Museum. Several years ago I first admired your works in Santa Fe where many of your early pieces in sepia tone were on exhibit. You are such a master of space--yet detail! When I see your photographs I am reminded of a theory of one of my friends: that northern New Mexico possesses the most positive "spiritual" field in our country; and also of a notion of my great aunt's (a collector of Maria's pottery back in the Thirties); that when she's troubled she goes into the room where the pottery is and there she feels comforted by the elements there--the earth, air, fire, and water--and the religious respect the Pueblos (in this case) have for their art. Your work with the Navajo and with the mesas and arroyos of New Mexico certainly gives me this feeling.

When I was reading your dedication page in The Enduring Navaho and was reminded of something else I'd like to share with you. You mentioned the Buick you and Ms. Forster were riding in--the father of a friend of mine from Santa Fe bought one of your cars years ago. He owned the Mobil station in town. It would be curious if it were the same car. Also, I teach with Peter Feresten whose wife, I understand, has studied with you.

An official at the Amon Carter tells me that prints are available to buy. Would you mind sending me information on what photographs are available, etc.?

One last request: I wonder if you would consent to an interview sometime this fall or spring. Fortunately, I have a National Endowment for the Humanities Grant to study American Humor at UNM next year and will be in the area. Though I am a freelance writer, I am most interested in just talking with you and possibly recording some remarks for my students here at the college. I like to use firsthand comments by artists to try to awaken students to these other worlds. Thanks very much for your time.

Sincerely,

Shelley Armitage
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