

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

NEW YORK 19

11 WEST 53rd STREET

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

CABLES: MODERNART, NEW-YORK

DEPARTMENT OF PHOTOGRAPHY

June 29, 1964.

Nell dear:

Many thanks for your letter. I'm glad you're back - I always feel better when I know that you are safe and close by (although I know that you are ever near at hand, as are all those in our hearts forever).

It is good to hear that the wedding was beautiful - I knew it would be, and that whatever sadness you felt would vanish in the circumambient loveliness.

Poor little Chris, in the barrenness of Kansas.... I'm sure that he has enough in himself to carry him triumphantly through this experience made necessary by our lack of civilization, and am confident that he will help many and himself along the way.

It is sweet of you to invite to come to your beautiful "Villa Serena," and I'll be with you in spirit. As things are, I am lashed to more masts than usual, and even breaking away for a day is out of the question. Moreover, I am unfit company for anyone!

I'm sorry you do not like the Center. We are having Venetian blinds, which had been ordered for the opening, and are beginning to trickle in now (for instance, the ones for our unoccupied offices arrived last week, but the ones for the gallery are still among the missing). This, however, would not change things as far as the protective Plexiglass is concerned. Let me give you an example of the risks involved. STEICHEN THE PHOTOGRAPHER went on tour as part of our Circulating Exhibitions programme overseas, and we have just had word from London that about 25 of the prints will have to be replaced! Fortunately, this applies to a set made especially for the show, and entirely expendable and replaceable. But just suppose that these had been original Steichen-made photographs, and not the work of Compo-Photocolor!.... I guess the time will come when the "invisible glass" is perfected and becomes just that, indeed of a deadening surface....

May I please buy a ticket or two for the benefit, and have someone come in my place? It is wonderful of you to share so much of wonder with so many.

About the photographs - I reminded John about them only last week (you see, they are on my mind, weighing preciously, as they do

on yours). He was apologetic, and pleaded that he had been more than usually busy, and wants to make a selection and submit his choices to you for finalization. Then something came up, and interrupted, and he did not get back to the immediate problem. I'll nudge him again, in the hope that he will act before he leaves on his vacation, come the first July days. I have not discussed the matter with Mr. Steichen.

Should you be in town, please let me know, as our Garden is the most beautiful of all places hereabouts. And, oddly enough, always cool - maybe it is the fountains, looking more than ever like white Jackson Pollocks -

My love to you, deep and always -

Grace