

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Circle 5-8900 Cable: Modernart

Department of Photography

February 20th, 1966.

Nell dear:

Of course you know why I have not written. So obviously, there is nothing one can say, and nothing that one can do. Poor Chris - how hard to be propelled into manhood, when he should be in a world of beauty and dreams! But - how noble is his acceptance of what has been thrust-upon him, and how superbly he expresses the inevitability of it all, without histrionics or heroics, but with the simplicity and the strength that emanate from you. He is a born writer and a very good photographer, with empathy, without self-pity, and entirely as he must-be if there is to be anything of wonder left in the world when all this, too, has passed.

I add my tears and prayers to yours. You must be proud that you have given the world an artist - and a man.

I'm glad that - you are better and I hope that - the spring, your return to health, and Chris' return to you will happen soon and simultaneously. The photographs are being returned to you, and the prose is being treasured. Thank you for sharing both with me.

Best-love always,

Trace