



149 Ninth Street / San Francisco / California 94103 / Telephone (415) 863-6135

December 1, 1972

Dear Nell,

I hate to write in the middle of a noisy office, but it's the time of year when one must squeeze it what one can.

First of all, you are having a small showing of prints at the Focus Gallery here in the city. Miss Johnson, who is most dedicated to fine photography and who has battled for years against the odds, will have your prints and Lartigue's as her Christmas show. This comes as a very last-minute thing for her, as another group she was expecting did not materialize in time. She loves Mother and Child and it seemed natural to us that she should select (with Greta at her side) some of the prints we still have here from the new edition of M and C and hang them behind simple glass sheets, unmatted. We will report to you on the effect. (The commercial "angle" is obvious--she hopes to sell many copies of the book.)

We had an airmail request from a Mrs. Derek Spense in Jamaica for many copies of your book. She signed "Kit" so I wrote back and slyly asked if she were the Kit whom I remembered from conversations with you. It was nice to have her very warm answer to my letter, chuckling over the wild times.

Margaretta and I are in far better spirits than when we last wrote. The ulcers that have been eating at us are at least better identified and we know what we must do. Literally all of our contemporaries are undergoing something like these experiences; some have more will to solve them than others and I think that we have more will than most. It's going to be a very pleasant Christmas and 1973 . . .

Your letters have been of enormous importance to us. They hew to the heart of the matter and help us distinguish trivia from the important things. They are, as you are, a cornerstone of our lives . . .

Love,

*Fredrick*