



14 March 1977

DEAN NEIL:

Your letter is such confirmation!
I am so glad that I have your YES to my vision, to the crazy-quilt hard working days we lead — and to the idea of the book which seems still a positive energy between David Bell at Viking — and me. I have to work to make it a reality — and I am moving cautiously for now, until we can get a contract moving — I am going to approach the various women soon — you are the only one who knows about it — but the Metropolitan Museum is interested in a Exhibition and Viking wants to consider a publication. It may be necessary to come East in May to sit down and do something to bring it all together as a project.

Today I decided to drop all my

various "tasks" and just "be" and
of course it meant, being tired, I
fell asleep. But I needed it I guess,
and upon awakening, the day is a
brilliant clear, cold March day —
the best kind (except that we need
rain so much ..) I had to write
to you — I have had your letter
close, carrying it around like
an amulet in my purse-calendar,
and I am hoping to let this book
idea grow, not push or pressure it,
but to be ready to jump when it
happens. Right now, I'm seeking
ways to bring money to the project
by getting the Museum to embrace
it, thereby allowing grants and
donations to be ^{deductible as gifts to a} non-profit
organization. ^{the} actual expenses
for such a book are high, because of
travel and taping .. but I am
devoted to the idea of this book,
and its contribution ... to the history
of photography -

3. My vision of it is that Grace
Mayer would contribute a short
text or introduction! that there
would be about 6-10 or so
photographers represented —
(that depends on the publisher
+ the budget allowed, # of pages etc)
with conversations and photographs,
a portrait + informal pictures and
a reference page of some sort - like a
list of bibliography or a short resume
of the career or some such biographical
data which is pertinent. Anyway,
the photographers - for example would
be Berenise Abbot, Barbara Morgan,
Lotte Jacobi, Toni Frizzell, Laura Gilpin,
Lisette Modell, Louise Dahl Wolfe,
Ruth Orkin, Carlotta Corpron, Giselle
Freund — and of course, Nell
Dorr. If there are more I am not yet
aware of names — but would love
to have a wider choice. Any ideas?
I will have to track down dates of
these women — I know almost
nothing about several of them.

and I think it will be quite a
job to discover more — !

I must stop - the luxury of this
kind of day will mean at least my
letter box gets lower ! I think of
you all the time - that is - you
are a presense for me - and I'm
so glad that it is a continuing
presense. What a treasure !

Much much love,

greta