



Sweet House
Beech Hill
Concord
New Hampshire
691-103

Dear Steichen,

How good to see you
yesterday - see you so strong
and full of faith - and always
the young Stranger! Wonderful,
wonderful. To be concerned about
life and existence, about love and
Birth and Death - to care what happens
to people - to really care - and
I know you do.

But I must say something
to you and you must understand
why I have to say it. Because I know
I am wrong - only I think I need you
to tell me.

You spoke so passionately
against any kind of prejudice or
propaganda - and I know you meant
it.

Either I have failed to say it in
my pictures - or you have failed
to look deep enough - which may
be my fault - or yours - or both.
But it is sad.

The pictures you showed
to me - the words you said -
can't be that you truly believe
that large-breasted women have
greater love for their children
or life? I can't believe this. Mary
Stalin or Hitler can say what
kind of songs must be sung - but
oh not you. Tell me it is not so.
Tell me you love all people and
see the precious earth in us too.
I care terribly that you do.

God bless you

Ever faithfully
{

2. Got in the best moment you shocked me
by what seemed to me a prejudice for
your little dirty-faced kids! You missed
them so in my "Mother and Child". But
who are they? All kids are dirty-faced -
but what particular kids did you miss?
Do I know them? Have I the right to speak
for them? This is my "Mother and Child" -
but everyone could write their own if they
would. And then the human race might
get acquainted and love each other. And
only then. You say I know the struggles of
these young people - I know their heart-
aches, I know the pain, and longing
and yes, the beauty. I know their high
sense of responsibility and their
consecration. It hurt me to
the quick to have you so lightly
write that they were not
as real as your dirty-faced
kids - Do you understand?