

February 25, 1965

Miss Frances Smyth  
Traveling Exhibition Service  
Smithsonian Institution  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Miss Smyth:

Thank you for your letter of February 15 concerning the exhibition "American Primitive Watercolors." The dates for which this exhibition will be available we unfortunately have already committed. I am afraid we must therefore pass up this admirable exhibition.

We were sorry we couldn't have become involved in the circulation of the Norwegian exhibition, but I certainly do hope to have the opportunity to see the Swedish Folk Art exhibit. We do however, have an exhibition which we just recently closed. It ran from late November through January 7, 1965. This was an exhibition of photographs based on the book Mother and Child. It happens that these photographs were put together by my great-aunt, Nell Dorr, who also had the book published. For this exhibition she used many hitherto unpublished examples, in addition to the works from the book, as they lent themselves more appropriately to a wall display than to the interrelationship of pages in a book. I do not know if you are familiar with her work. She has been a great and long time friend of Steichen, who selected three or four of her photographs for inclusion in the Family of Man exhibition.

Her exhibition is now mounted on some eighty-three 16" x 20"



masonite panels. These panels are unfortunately subject to a certain degree of warping. However, with suitable modifications, I believe they would make an excellent traveling exhibition.

Miss Mayer at the Museum of Modern Art is a long time admirer of her work. Enclosed are copies of her article that appeared in the December 1963 issue of Infinity. You may be familiar with her most recent book, The Barefeet, published in 1963.

I believe that Mrs. Dorr would be most happy to have this exhibition circulated. However, the final negotiations, if you are interested, would be conducted with her. For your records, her address is:

Mrs. J.V.N. Dorr  
Nettleton Hollow Road  
Washington, Connecticut

This exhibition elicited very great interest here in the Twin Cities and was accompanied by the sale of the book in our Museum Shop. The book did sell out completely.

Sincerely yours,

Goldthwaite H. Dorr, III  
Curator

GHD:mo  
Enclosures

CC: Nell Dorr

Nell,  
I hope this meets with  
your approval & feel the  
exhibition should be seen by as  
many people as possible.  
Blizzards and colds  
notwithstanding, we are looking  
well and enjoy Mario's record  
after -  
Love, J