

July 25, 1987

My dear Carlotta:

1. I was both happy, and troubled, to get your letter of July 8th. Happy, because it was so good to know that you had finally gotten a show in NYC (and I do wish I could have seen it!) - and you now have a fully equipped place to work, and can get some help. And, of course, you should have had a dealer long ago. And, also, the Marguerite Mitchell book will mean definite recognition.

But troubled, because of your health problems. Osteoarthritis, I understand, is almost impossible to cure. For the gout, you might try a drug called Zyloprim (I am taking it now because of a high uric acid level.) It might possibly help you - and being able to drive the car is, I am sure, of great importance.

The "Notice" (on the reverse side) will tell you something of my own arthritis problems - which are the main reasons I have not been able to answer any sooner. But I also have many stones in both kidneys, and one stone is stuck in my right ureter - where it has been, without moving, for the last 8 months or so. At any time, it could move, and block up the ureter completely - in which case I am going to have an even worse problem. *oi*

Because it is very difficult for me to stand up any length of time, I have not been able to complete the packing of the boxes of books. Therefore, I cannot possibly move till November, or December, at earliest - I have hundreds of boxes to go - and lifting the heavy boxes - as the doctor has warned me - my easily cause the kidney stones to cut some of the tissue. But since there is no one to help me - I must take this chance. My new address will be:

5227 Marigny St.
New Orleans La. 70122

Because of all the other things I have been struggling with (it is a bad problem just ever groceries in this place) - I have done nothing about my new book - which is still being held by Viking Press. They offered me a contract - but I have refused to sign it because of some very undesirable clauses. I now must find another publisher.

And the New Orleans Museum of Art has backed out of doing anything about setting up an "Archives" - they say they are completely tied up taking care of the huge "Treasures of King Tut" show that opens in Sept. - and that they may do something next year. I cannot wait that long (I have had to spend nearly all my money getting the wing built to house my new darkroom & library.) So I am now approaching Eastman House - and may to approach others.

I assume you have seen the Portfolio I had published in the April issue of "modern Photography". I also had one in the March-April issue of "Communication Arts" (much better printed.) This is a California magazine, and you may find it in the library of TWU. And I have finally been given a place in the history of American Surrealism - in the first show in this country devoted to this subject, and entitled "Surrealism and American Art: 1931-1947". This show was held during March and April in the Rutgers University Art Gallery, New Brunswick, N.J. 08903. A very fine Catalogue (illustrated) has been issued - and the 4 photographers included (the rest are painters) are: Man Ray, George Platt Lynes, David Hare, and myself. Perhaps the Art Department of TWU could get a copy of this Catalogue by writing Mr. Jeffrey Wechsler of the Rutgers Univ. Art Gall. - they only sent me one, unfortunately. A girl is coming down here from Rutgers to do a tape with me - which will be centered around the fact that she feels that in the late '30's and early 40's I was the only American photographer (except Ed. Sommer - whose surrealist photos are entirely unlike mine) breaking away from the 2 main streams of photography in this country - documentation and "purism". Like you, I am only getting recognition for this phase of my work - in my 70's. It is comforting to know that you have the companionship of your cats. One of the first things I will do - after I move - is to obtain a cat. It has been so long - over 30 years - since I have had one.

Affectionally,

Clarence