

Box 121
So. Woodstock, Vt.
05071

Mr. Eliot Porter
Rt. 4, Box 33
Santa Fe, N.M. 87501

Dear Mr. Porter;

I am currently a student at the Dooschen Country School of Photography in South Woodstock, Vermont, and will complete my studies here at the end of March.

In looking to the future, I decided that I would write to you and inquire about the possibilities of assisting you at some time after March.

I have no illusions about what this would involve and I am ready and willing to load film, carry equipment, watch nests, and generally do whatever might be necessary to facilitate your working.

There are a number of reasons why I am interested in working for you. One is that I greatly admire your feeling for color and your acute awareness of the subtle, quietly spectacular, side of nature. Another is that I am increasingly drawn to ornithology, although I have had no formal training in this area. I am particularly fascinated by birds of

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pray and hope that I can eventually contribute something of value in this area.

Mr. Doscher has mentioned several times the importance of working with a person whom you admire, and from whom you feel you can learn a great deal. It is with this in mind that I write to you.

If you would like references, personal and/or photographic, I would be glad to send them to you.

Sincerely,
David Snyder

14 February 1974

Country School of Photography

A YEAR ROUND SCHOOL ON TORY HILL • SOUTH WOODSTOCK • VERMONT

Dear Eliot Porter:-

March 23rd 1974

Every spring, as part of our program, we take a group of students to the Southwest - and I had tagged 74 as the year I would take off additional time to look up on e Eliot Porter, whose work I have admired over the years. However, the gasoline crunch made us cancel our trip and in August I look forward to a bright shiny new hip - so I am afraid we will both be deprived pleasure, of one natuer or another.

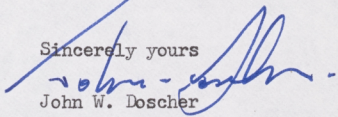
The sixty nine years of vigorous persuit and indulgences have channeled the more mellow years into an obsession of working with the young people. My wife and I take on sixteen young people during the winter months for intense and dedicated education in ideal surroundings. We are sticklers for the important disciplines leading to artistic results no magter what the area of coverage. Our graduates have an almost 100% record of staying in the field and include some very imporatnt names. In contrast we are very anti photo rotarian.

All of this leads to the subject of David Snyder who lives in adoration of Eliot Porter and above all would like to work with him and for him. He ~~for~~ would be natuer and the great outdoors. He works in both large and small format and employs sophisticated techniques like the Ansel Adams zone system and the Doscher Precision Control Exposure System in color. He has a B.A. from liberal arts college and is a son of a protestant minister, is married to a girl who I believe has majored in education. He has worked for us while here as a student and we would like him to stay with us - he is a real find.

Here would be a rare opportunity to find a ready made disciple to assist you in your many goals involving superb photography - so if there is even the most remote chance would you contact him please - thru us, or if he has already written you may have another address.

Perhaps in 75 - new hip and all - and the Southeast tour reinstated I can (with some warning)) hunt you up in your baliwick.

Sincerely yours


John W. Doscher

jwd:lm