



# arts and humanities

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April 6, 1978

Mr. Eliot Porter  
Route 4  
Box 33  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Mr. Porter:

I am working on a project at the Mass Council on the Arts to produce a series of 13 posters on outstanding art objects in Massachusetts collections. Among the categories being featured is photography. Other categories are illustrated in the six posters which have so far been published, and which I have enclosed with this letter.

We would like to use one of your photographs, in the collection of the Worcester Art Museum, for the poster on photography. The Museum agrees with this, and the curator of photography Steve Gorecki and I chose the photo "Lobster Fisherman's Wharf, Stonington, Maine, 1973" as the most suitable. This is your number 73-599. I would like to have your approval and clearance to use this on the poster we propose. It would be in the same format as the enclosed posters, with reproduction by laser scanner direct from the dye-transfer print in the Worcester Art Museum's collection. The print-run will be 4,200, of which 1,000 will go to the Worcester Art Museum for sale, through their museum shop as a fund-raiser. The remainder will be distributed free around the state for display, with the aim of encouraging the public to visit museums, and of promoting a broader interest in the arts. I will of course also be glad to provide you with a substantial number of the run, if you wish.

Also, on each poster you will note, in column two, we include a quote relevant to the work of art being shown. I have gone through several of your books but have not found just the right thing. A possibility would be, from page 26 of the abridged version of Summer Island, "... when Stonington is seen from its streets rather than from its outside its harbor, it is a friendly town. From the inside, so to speak, Stonington's character becomes warm and cozy, even in the sharp light of a hazeless day.... Flowers complement the handiwork of the lobstermen. While he paints his pot bouys in vibrant colors behind his house, his wife cultivates a bright garden beside her doorstep." This is perhaps too long, but I like very much the reference to the sharp light, and the metaphor of bright lobster bouys and flowers. But perhaps you could supply a short statement especially for the poster, indicating your feeling for Stonington and your thinking as

to the daring composition.

I hope this project gains your approval. The first six posters issued have met with great success. The museums involved are using them enthusiastically, and I think the public has really been enticed to take greater notice of some of the lesser-appreciated arts resources of the state.

Switching to a personal matter, I would like, if possible, to purchase 2 of your prints for my own collection. They are: the print mentioned above which we hope to use for the poster, and a black-and-white photo which appears on page 18 of the abridged version of Summer Island, Penobscot Country, entitled Penobscot Bay, Southwest from Eagle Island. I admire these photos of Maine very much, and I feel a special association with them through the paintings of your late brother, of whose works I have a modest collection.

I would be glad to give you any further information on this project you might need. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Gary Edwards  
Consultant for Special Projects.