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Dear Dr. Porter,

I recently completed a six month sabbatical in New York City, where I saw your most recent exhibit, "Clouds", at the Danziger Gallery. I've subsequently learned from Mr. Danziger that you are quite ill, and am very sad to hear that. I had hoped to be able to see you sometime this summer, and that sounds as if it is out of the question.

You have already received many accolades and deserve them all. How you've chosen to live, and the work you've produced, have greatly enriched all our lives. Yours has been a great contribution to photography, art, and humanity.

This is a personal thanks. It has been a great honor knowing you. Your photographs are a constant source of joy and learning. Rosemarie and I keep all your books in our family room, and often review one or another in the evening. Even though I have memorized all of the images, I find new points of composition, color relations, juxtapositions of objects each time I look at one. Our most valued art treasures are your books and the photographs of yours that we own. Being able to have a photographic class with you and show you some of my subsequent work is the high point of my photographic career. You pointed out that one must start from some artistic vantage point - in other words, emulating Eliot Porter's style is acceptable! And indeed, why not start with the very best.

Thank you. And God bless you.

Very sincerely,

*David Kumpe*

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