

155 Woodside Avenue
Amherst, Mass. 01002

December 7th

Dear Aline & Eliot: I meant to write long ago to tell you that everyone here loved Eliot's talk. I didn't because the combination of teaching and painting and faculty social life (which only means seeing them at lunch) leaves me exhausted, so that I find it very hard to write letters. Leo Marx, the teacher who kept doggedly questioning Eliot, particularly liked the talk and everything. What he wants to do is to bring out how bad he thinks things are. He has been very friendly to me because he liked Eliot's talk so much. He said to me afterwards, meeting me on the path from the swimming pool, how much he liked the talk, and, "It's nice to hear someone talk about what he really knows." I told that to another teacher, who has an office across from me, and who also particularly wanted me to know how much he liked the talk. His comment on Leo Marx's remark was, "That doesn't make a very good case for the rest of us."

I am very glad that the Greek book won't be indefinitely postponed. I had to give a talk to the faculty club, and it was about the contrast between the scientific and aesthetic points of view, and its connection with the possible causes of technology having become such a threat. I was scared that I would come across as ignorant and naive. Afterwards, ~~xxxxxx said that~~ I felt I had got myself way out on a very long limb, and Anne remarked that I had the expression of someone who had just proposed to Mae West and been accepted. But then I kept hearing that they had liked what I said, and one man describing it to a colleague who hadn't been there, said, "He made the scientists stand up!"

Last night a Spanish teacher who has been conducting a "Problems in Inquiry" Seminar told me about how these students were bored with a black and white show of young photographers at the museum and he showed them "In Wildness" which they all immediately were thrilled by, and it made his course come to life.

I liked Eliot's talk very much too. I thought it was in content almost the same as the talk at Sunset last summer, but it all came together: it was coherent. The art department is sorry that Eliot can't have his exhibition here this year. The reason they asked for it was that the students who saw Eliot's pictures and heard him had requested it. Perhaps another year when I won't be here.

with love

Fairfield