

Tuesday night late
~~FALL~~ 1964
Scott is working on portrait
of Ray.

Dear Stu,

Your letter was a welcome one and enjoyable too and even full of rhetoric, but it was unnecessary to try to persuade me to work on my etching. I wonder how shallow you think I am! Don't you think I would give up etching or for one minute desert the goals I'm after. Well I haven't done anything of the sort in fact my horizons are changing right now and some of the things I was after last year, I no longer am interested in. Others have changed and grown and (I hope) matured. Technically I think I can do better now than ever. It's strange; painting helps my etching and etching helps my painting and yet they are both worlds apart. I have some irons in the fire and even the first marks one one etching I am working on and I have a big one (12" X 18") of two negroes laughing, a sort of study work for my proposed big painting. really it's an attempt at a 2 figure composition and I haven't planned it except a feeling. I'm getting the models soon. But even with these I doubt seriously that I will work at it like I did last year. My main aim this year is to ~~be~~ get a foot hold on painting people in all positions and quickly. I have already painted 2 head studies and I hope to fill a note book full.

Last weekend Bethea (the guy with the blond mustache you met up here) and I went out to Chadd's Ford and I visited McCoy and had a good talk with him. He criticized my painting of Ray and left me with a strong

feeling of ignorance. God! that man knows painting. We also visited Frolick and Ann at their house and I saw Wyeth's portrait of McCoy - a real beauty and freer than you think. It was good to be occupied at least one weekend. I don't like it at all up here and I think that soon I'm going to make the decision about leaving here for good.

I miss the south so bad I could explode when I think of the time I'm wasting up here - time that could be spent on painting the things that really matter to me.

I suppose you enjoyed the hurricane. I would have loved to see it and since I couldn't I would like to hear a full account.

Your letters are good stu and soon I shall send you a big fat etching to reward you. I've written a lot of letters but I don't seem to ever get any back from anyone. Now it's getting to the point that I'm too tired to write or there's nothing to write about. I do wish that I could work harder it makes the time pass more swiftly. Please excuse this short letter but it's late and I need sleep and if I don't write tonight I don't get much chance later on. Please send me some etching type photos I can refer to. I hate to use photos but up here I don't really care.

Your tired brother
Switt)