

late Fall 1964

Dear Stu,

Your letters may be few and far between but I sure do enjoy them. You seemed to be shining in your last one and you know it seems to be contagious. Today was beautiful and I just got a hair cut and so was in extra good spirits. I worked hard today down at the Graphics department and have finally completed my editions of the dogs and Maselups Run.

But what has been taking most of my time has been the studies for what could well prove to be my first great painting. It's a portrait of Mrs. McCaddie but it's much more than a portrait. To me and to most viewers (I hope) it will have a deep significance.

I don't ~~at~~ want to harp on the ideas expressed in the work but only the way it feels. It's full of rich feeling meaning and yes, symbolism. The circumstances of its origination are interesting and to me are moving.

She's sitting in her Rocking Chair staring out straight ahead only with that meditative inner seeing look that old people feel. But it is more intense because it was her birthday and outside a fog enveloped everything. The colours in the room are all oppressively brown and moody. The light on her, her apron, sweater and dress are very stark and beautiful. Overall is a death like stillness and in the window is a young green and well cared for plant growing tenderly in the light. That is the focal point and the meaning of painting, or so I feel. It will look something like this.



40 inches

25 inches

shit, that's a miserable sketch and a bad composition. It hasn't been worked out yet, but I am almost finished with the portrait study and it's the best and deepest portrait I've ever done. It's drybrush and two weeks of back breaking struggle have paid off. If I can only keep up the spark of interest in me for the month or so that it will take to finish it then by God you'll see something. With only one week left to work on it that's going to mean quite a bit of work on the studies left to be done. I can't wait to talk to you about it and see what you think.

I think that that 5 dollars you owe me would be put to better use on framing that painting of mine. I hope you do frame it.

Ronald and the family left last Tuesday for Ft. Worth and everybody at school is sad about it. But I'm not. I think it's going to ~~be~~ probably the best thing that ever happened to him. Despite all the shit he's gone through he's still had it luckier than most artists what with a good paying job always waiting for him. I am really looking forward to painting a lot with him this summer.

And that's that is all the news I have to relate. Thanks for your letter and write again soon.

Scott