

4 August 1958

Dear David,

I just got home from a two week trip to Mexico - part vacation and part business. The business part (and pleasure too!) was going with ^{friend} Celia Alexander (her family, the Klebergs, are majorly owners of the King Ranch) to meet Miguel Sanchez-Narvaez at their ^{hacienda} ~~residence~~ in the shadow of the great pyramid of Teotihuacan. Miguel is owner-publisher of the important pictorial magazine "Mexico Desconocido" somewhat like our National Geographic but entirely about Mexico past and present.

The Sanchez-Narvaezes are one of the oldest, and richest families in Mexico - they own most of Mexico's breweries among other vast holdings - and they flipped out over books and my ~~color~~ ^{watercolor} notebooks of watercolor and letter works. Miguel wants to publish something, soon. He particularly loved my painting, "Earth Ford" which is of a mayan bath monster mask deep in the jungles of Piedras Negras - a picture which you have in storage. In fact he asked me to leave ^{me} ~~at~~ photo of the painting, and some written remarks about the work so that he could publish them.

I also visited the famous hacienda of Las Tajas - home of the late Juan Sordo Magdalena, one of the greatest 20th century

mexican architecture. He was both friend and rival
to Luis Bonason - and ^{the 17th century} Las Tajus with its
ultra simple facade in deep red was his
favorite mexican building. Juan Soto
Magdalena's wife Malena generously
wants me to spend time at Las Tajus
to paint. She loves our work and is very
well connected to the mexican art world - both
artists and big time collectors. If I have
time to pursue these and other connections,
they most certainly ^{will} benefit us and Gerald
Peter Gallery as well. The problem, of course,
is time. There is never enough of it.

Which brings me to the subject of the
grand opening of Gerald Peter Gallery. Except
for the two weeks that I spent in Mexico,
I have for ^{more than a} ~~the past~~ month been working
on a large painting of Scarlet Malauas
in deep jungle - a picture similar to the
one that caught Jerry's eye when he
was in Fort Worth. Although the painting is
coming along well I ^{simply} cannot have it
properly completed by the time of your
grand opening. I will, however, have
the painting finished and in your hands
while the opening show is still on. (Jerry
said that, if possible, he would like to have
one painting to show and one painting for
back up).

Scott told me about his talk with
you on the phone the other day, ~~and~~ that
Conversation, along with one or two others
I have had with you, has led me to
believe that you are unaware of the
fact that Gerald Peter Gully has eight of our
paintings in its possession - probably in its
warehouse.

When Scott mentioned the other day
that you ~~show~~ ^{showed} ~~just~~ two of these works
to show, you said that they had
already been shown two years ago
in your big Summer Indecap show.

But, only one picture - my painting
of the dinosaur track titled "Heavy" was
exhibited in that show. To the best of my
knowledge that is the only painting that
Gerald Peter Gully has ever exhibited -

As much time has passed since
we first met and discussed our future
with Gerald Peter Gully. With the ~~intensity~~
~~of~~ ^{of} the ~~Bro Hall~~ project and several other
prior commitments absorbing so much of
Scott's and my time - and, of course, the
new gallery building, commanding the attention
of gallery personnel, we have not been able
to sit down and ~~draw~~ ^{develop} a program that
would allow ~~us~~ ^{us} to plan ~~an~~ ^{an} elaborate
exhibition of our own. ^{at Gerald Peter's} When to

delivered our signed paintings to you in April of 1955 + requested that they not be exhibited formally but saved for our eventual debut exhibit at the Gallery in a joint show. In the meantime the paintings were at your disposal ^{to be} to show prospective patrons the range of our work in order ~~to begin~~ to build interest in our work.

So much time has passed, and you, Jerry, ~~lost~~ - and everyone has been so busy, you probably have forgotten that you have these signed paintings in your inventory. Several of them, especially "Pruvia", "Oroz Corto y Flores" and "Autorretrato para el día de los Muertos" are among our best works and have never been offered exhibited for sale. All but "A Marat" have likewise never been offered for sale either.

Although, personally, Scott and I would prefer to have our paintings for our own debut exhibition at Gerald Peters Gallery sometime within the next two years, we want to cooperate with you in every way possible.

If it is important to you that Scott and I ^{do} participate in your grand opening may I suggest that you bring my

Painting of a Mexican garden titled "Cruz,
Centos y Flores" - a major work of mine
full of ancient mexican symbolism and
another effort of 3 months. Scott
suggests that you show "Prairie Melancholy"
by also one of his most ambitious landscapes.
Both paintings (see enclosed photos) are
the among our largest watercolors
and should "read" well in a large gallery
opening. As I said, neither of them painting
has ever been offered for sale by us
and I don't think you have either,
since we have never been consulted on the
prices of them works as we ~~most certainly~~
~~would have been~~, had you wished to exhibit them.

Baid, as soon as reasonably possible
you need to sit down - either here or in
Santa Fe - and make some substantive
plans for a show and ^{possible} promotion strategies as
Scott and I begin to seriously work for
Artis Gallery. I have every confidence that
we will become a feather in your
Cap, that we will sell well and
do well by the gallery as soon as we
can coordinate our mutual needs and
responsibilities.

Since Scott and I still have
one 80 foot ceiling mural left to
do for Box Hall as well as the

McCar's Dancery, I have decided to forgo
coming to Snider's Fall for the opening, since
it would be a very bad time for us
to meet. ~~To make plans~~ ^{discuss} for our future then.
Instead, ~~I~~ ^{Scott and I} am sending Ralph Carr to
stand in for us. He knows our world
better than anybody and has been our
liason with the public for many years. I
am paying his way and would appreciate
it if you could see that he attends any
appropriate function. He will be there
not only to represent ~~me~~ Scott and me
but to be entirely at ^{the} your disposal of
Gerald Peter Gally. I think that he
could be a tremendous help to you
personally since you are bound to be
pulled this way and that by myriads
of out of town ^{clients} customers - that ^{which should} ~~you should~~ ^{present}

A couple of final items. Scott and
I have been chosen by the Mayor and the
City Council of Fort Worth to be honored during
the 1899 Sesquicentennial of the City's founding.
We will be doing some sort of poster
to be sold by the city and there will be
other hoopla. It is a perochial affair to be
sure, but Ft. Worth's reputation as a sophisticated
and internationally recognized for its museums etc
makes this honor ~~an~~ personally important
one.

Coincidentally the Texas State Audubon Society will be celebrating its 100th anniversary in 1988 and has approached Scott and me to be honored with a state wide tour of our original bird paintings for our folio "of Birds and Texas". They are going to start off their state wide celebration with a big party at - of all places - Bass Hall. (They originally did not know of our participation in the Hall's art).

~~They will~~

If we have the time, we will do a poster to honor The Centennial that could be promoted in the Texas State newspaper and perhaps Audubon magazine at a national level. When I mentioned that this would perhaps be a very good time to publish a small, shelf edition of huge bird book, the president of The Texas Audubon Society said she could get the Audubon Society to heavily subsidize the book. It may be too late for such a book to be published by mid 1988, but all the work is done and there just might be a chance. The attendant publicity certainly would give us an opportunity to sell our remaining ^{elephant} folio and perhaps a great many color plates - neither of which I

John Gower
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have seriously promoted for years.

Brind, I hope all is going well with you and that Jerry's opening is every thing you could wish for. If you do decide to show our work then the paintings I have suggested will, I believe, be an excellent representation of what we can do as artists. They are not "used" works and ~~would~~ ^{were planned} have been to be an ~~honored~~ ^{important} part of our own definite exhibition at Guild Peter Getty.

Sincerely
you