

July 23, 1963.

Mr. Theodore Berland,  
2840 Berwyn Avenue,  
Chicago, 25, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Berland:

Your letter to Mr. Blair was referred to me in this department while I was away on vacation and I am sorry you have had to wait so long for a reply.

In regard to showing Photography in the Fine Arts IV, we have an exhibition schedule definitely arranged which extends for more than a year and a half in the future. Beyond this there are at least fifty photographers whose work we would like to show and each week I learn of others. Therefore, exhibition material is the least of our problems.

I do not know whether or not you have seen any of our exhibitions. In arranging them we have certain projects and intentions we are trying to develop and which I feel have had excellent results. One of our intentions is to have shows which originate in The Art Institute and will be identified with it. Only in rare instances (three to date) have we used exhibitions from outside sources. These were from George Eastman House and were necessary to present photographers whose work we could not obtain elsewhere. We do not have space available to accommodate large survey exhibitions and our intention has been usually to display the work of individual photographers. In this way a representation is shown which gives a more complete idea of what these individuals are expressing in their work. No survey exhibition can give an adequate view of the vast fields covered by contemporary photography all over the world. Such exhibitions do have a certain interest for casual visitors, but we have large numbers of regular visitors to our shows and I feel that during the last four years we have given the public a good impression of the main objects and aims of contemporary photography. Certainly the response from both photographic authorities and the public has been warm and enthusiastic.

If you have time, when you visit the museum someday in the future, I would be very glad to meet you, show you some of the masterpieces in our permanent collection and explain more fully what we are trying to accomplish. I have added your name to our mailing list and you will receive announcements as they are published.

Yours sincerely,

Hugh Edwards, Curator of Photography.