

September 20, 1963.

Miss Penelope Billings, Traveling Exhibition Service,
The Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, 2, D. C.

Dear Miss Billings:

I am pleased to have your letter in regard to A Dialogue with Solitude by Dave Heath. This exhibition had much success here and people still inquire about it. It received excellent publicity and was broadcast on television where it had an enthusiastic response which brought many visitors to the museum who would not have been otherwise interested. It was the third most popular show we have had and I am delighted you have inquired about it for I am sure it would find a large public anywhere.

One of our principles is to have - as often as possible - exhibitions which originate with the Art Institute, and Dave Heath was most helpful in making his prints available. Although he is well known in New York and exerts much influence on young photographers, he is not familiar to that larger American public which seems to receive photography as a welcome relief after the impositions and frivolities of contemporary painting and sculpture. A Dialogue with Solitude is a photographic sequence, interspersed with occasional quotations, and consists of 81 prints. Dave Heath mounted one set on 11 x 14" mats to meet our requirements and he has written me he plans to keep these particular prints for possible exhibitions. I suggest you get in touch with him. His address is Dave Heath, 383 Columbus Avenue, New York City, 24; his telephone number is EN-2-7928. I hope you write him. His work is a beautiful balance of admirable and conscientious technique with subject matter of far-reaching, modern significance.

I am enclosing copies of the Art Institute's news release and the text of the wall label for the show. Since these were written, Dave Heath has become one of the editors of Contemporary Photographer. We have no copy photographs available, but you will find reproductions in Photography Annual (Popular Photography) for 1963 and in Infinity, April 1962. I do hope you find it possible to do something about Dave Heath's work as it would be another step in the right direction for photography.

Give my best wishes to Mrs. Pope and with kindest regards to you, I am

Sincerely yours,

Hugh Edwards, Curator of Photography.