

May 9, 1963.

Mr. Bruce Davidson,
325 West 12th Street,
New York City,
New York.

Dear Bruce:

This is not the letter I have wanted to write for weeks, but only a long and necessary note. I suppose the letter will be for Frances, an answer to hers which was a kind of Volare, right out of the blue, over Greece.

I have missed both of you ever since that famous Sunday morning departure from New York. I wish you had been with me on the trip back because I had no conversation with others and thought about you much of the time. It was good to have those thoughts with me and I have kept them ever since for some very bristly and dark times. The conversations after Antonioni and Lawrence and the breakfast before the ride to the bus are as productive of happy memories as anything I have. I want to write more about them and to seek other occasions in the future for remembering you.

I have made up an exhibition schedule and wonder what you feel about February 1st through March 8th (1964) for your show. That may seem far in the future, but the time will pass much faster than you think. I hope to come to New York in the early fall and we will make a selection - I look forward to this more than anything. I wish I could see both of you long before that time for I miss you too much. We will be able to get together a fine exhibition and it will be very handsome in the new gallery. I hope that neither I nor photography will be abolished here before many things I have in mind are shown. Dennis Stock's show has been a big success and there are many funny anecdotes to be told of the public reaction to it. Marlon Brando saw the cast of his head in one picture and I have just been told this was in the papers.

I'll telephone you before long and find out about your reactions to the dates I have fixed. And I'll write from home some night out of the quicksands of the accumulating French books. All good wishes to you and Frances and more soon.

Sincerely,

Hugh Edwards.

P.S. Rudy sent the two magazines with his work and I am happy and proud about them.

MAGNUM Photos, Inc.

► NEW YORK

15 W. 47th St., New York 36
Judson 6-7704 Cable: MAGNUMFOTO

PARIS

125 Faubourg St. Honoré, Paris 8e
Élysée 15-91 Cable: FOTOMAGNUM

September 26, 1963.

Dear Hugh,

It's Fall finally. I have had mine a little early this year. There is no past. No future. Only now. And now is beautiful the taproot going verically into the ground holding solid the streams of growth to the bare branches. The truth of pain beds down for the night and tomorrow is another day. Expect little from life, but a lot of myself. Now I run deep silent, and only I can tell where I am. Everything has taken on a new meaning. Both inside and outside at the same time like nabulae. Guts and groin. I have read and re-read, thought and re-thought so much inside and outside myself. Always I was like that. I have always had a strong will, but unfortunately it spread itself horizontally. So what am I doing. Everything one step at a time. No fashion photography. Throwing away work that I know is rotten, or even with a bad spot in it. Living and loving it. Loving and living it. Paying-off adepts, and putting the house in order. Walking into bookstores (Wittenborn 1018 Madison is like a church in the woods) walking in the woods(when I can't get to the woods I take streets) Music (the spanish station) loud. And doing work for the time being. It is amasing for I can't feel a thing at times that my work comes out so good. My work habbits allow this to happen. When I see the pictures I can't believe I took them.

I am not showing anything to anyone. No exhibits. Be angry. But remember your anger ~~xxxxxx~~ if I have a Spring again.

That is it Hugh Edwards. There are a lot of people who need a show now. I don't . Thinking of the self, not myself.

When I have sothing to say, you will know it. Right now, and you have to understand this, I don't want to put anything on walls--I am tearing down too many. I am sorry to have to do this to you---but my instincts tell me it is right. Take care of yourself, and send people to me from time to time.

Bruce

Unanswered

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December 1, 1963

Dear Hugh,

Somehow I am counting on finding a dream assignment.
Just being a dreamer doesn't make the dream come true,
but it is a beginning.

This will give you a chance to look over the pictures again.

Things are wonderful in New York. I am starting a
class in photography at my place starting next week.
It is about finding ones feelings and feeling ones
findings. It is going to take all I got, and I
want it to. It scares me a little to have lives
in my hands, but I want to have a hand in life so
very badly that I welcome the challenge.

Thank you for doing this for me.

Bruce

P.S. Have you seen the Atget book with words from Proust?

January 27, 1965.

Mr. Bruce Davidson,
325 West 12th Street,
New York City, New York.

Dear Bruce:

I wish you could have stayed longer because I have missed you a lot these last two days. It was your best trip here and I am glad the show was up so you could see it. I hear the attendance on Sunday was great and I expect it to increase. I wrote Herman Kogan of The Daily News a note and now it seems there is to be a feature story in The Daily News Panorama. I telephoned a list of negative numbers to Inge Bondi who will have prints made and send them. I'll let you know when they appear.

On Monday (my day off) I traded in my two KLH speakers for 2 AR-2ax's and you should hear those. I'll try to get the record by The Supremes because I was much impressed and will do all the talking I can for them. I hope you read some of Daniel Boorstin's book on the way back because I want to know what you think of it. If you like it, I'll send The Lost World of Thomas Jefferson which I think is even better.

My copy of The Bridge is a real treasure now and thanks very much for that. I was deeply touched. I am very fond of the book just as it is - now it means even more and I shall guard it as much as anything I have.

I am sending copies of The Art Institute's news release which I did not write. If there are any names to whom you should like copies sent, please let me know.

The German boy who likes the bridge picture so much and who works here spoke to me about it again and I shall tell him to write you.

Hurry back. I shall be in New York for the judging of that high school competition on March 26th and will stay at least a week. I hope you are there. More soon and all good wishes now

Sincerely,

February 2, 1966.

Mr. Bruce Davidson,
c/o Magnum Photos, Inc.,
72 West 45th Street,
New York City, New York.

Dear Bruce:

It was a great pleasure to talk with you on Monday afternoon: we should do this oftener.

Although I am sure you have had an acknowledgment from the Director of Fine Arts, I want to write today and thank you for the twenty prints you have given us, selected from the exhibition of your work which was held here last year. I assure you these are much needed in our permanent collection of photography and as we have no funds established for the purchase of acquisitions, such gifts are of much assistance to us.

I hope you come to Chicago before long - I miss you more all the time.

Sincerely,

Hugh Edwards, Curator of Photography.