

to strenuous evidence of his writing and of some of the things I'll add your name to our mailing list to receive announcements to shows and I am mailing you the notices of the last two My tastes are hard to define: what affects me is usually what I could never intellectualize about, nor do I feel they should be questioned. I am interested, I suppose, and what I like - no matter what - is anything that makes me feel right and glad I am alive. This would make the photography "authorities" laugh: it may be old fashioned and corny, but I believe I may say it to you and you will understand.

March 31, 1969

Mr. Bill Endres
 Route 2
 Box 486G
 Charleston
 West Virginia
 25314

Sincerely,

Dear Bill Endres:

Your letter has come and I am very glad to have heard from you. Naturally I am pleased to know about what Danny has said of me and to hear that the class I have in the history of photography at The Art Institute has been heard of as far away as you are. Your questions prompt me to write pages, but I hate writing and shall try to answer them as briefly as possible.

It is a class in the history of photography only and I believe it is available only to students who have already had two art history courses. In the beginning, three years ago, when I was persuaded to undertake it, I didn't think we would have any students, but - somehow - it has turned out to be so popular that the authorities have had to make all kinds of restrictions - the last semester they wanted to keep it down to an enrolment of ten and restrict it to American photography. It has nothing to do with the making of photographs except that for assignments I have allowed the students to make photographs. The results of this have been interesting, and often the best work has been done by people who had had no previous experience with cameras. I suppose this is one of the mysteries of the camera - photography, to me, is after all more of mystery and magic than it is art. The present (second semester) course will close early in June and I do not know (it is too early) whether or not it will be given again in the fall. I shall let you know about this, and if you are in Chicago, and do not have the necessary requirements, you may come to the classes whenever you want to. They are given on Thursdays from 6:00 to 9:00 in the evenings and keep me constantly concerned. For me, there is an irony in their popularity as my academic qualifications consist only in having graduated from the Paducah (Kentucky) high school; but I have always had a great enthusiasm for photography and believe it is the only picture medium left that matters.

I wish you could see our exhibitions of which I am proud and feel that - in their quiet way - they have had good influence. I have always thought Danny great and now everybody seems to agree with me. Have you hear he has just won a Guggenheim fellowship? We are showing his prison pictures and some from his destruction of lower Manhattan series as our next exhibition in May.

I'll add your name to our mailing list to receive announcements of shows and I am mailing you the notices of the last two. My tastes are hard to define: what affects me is usually what I could never intellectualize about, nor do I feel they should be questioned. I am very self-centered, I suppose, and what I like - no matter what - is anything that makes me feel right and glad I am alive. This would make the photography "authorities" laugh: it may be old fashioned and corny, but I believe I may say it to you and you will know what I mean.

Sincerely,
Hugh Edwards, Curator of Photography.

Route 2
Box 4866
Charleston
West Virginia

Dear Bill:

Your letter has come and I am very glad to have heard from you. Naturally I am pleased to know about what Danny has said of me and to hear that the class I have in the history of photography at The Art Institute has been heard of as far away as you are. Your questions prompt me to write pages, but I hate writing and shall try to answer them as briefly as possible.

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