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Collection: Series.Folder: The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY Hans Richter II.A.5

> BLACK MOUNTAIN FARM R. F. D. 1 BRATTLEBORO, VERMONT

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Hans Rachter II.A.5

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Collection: Series.Folder: The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY Hans Richter II.A.5

March 10, 1954

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BLACK MOUNTAIN FARM BRATTLEBORO, VERMONT

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The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY

Hans Rachter II.A.5

March 10, 1954

BLACK MOUNTAIN FARM R. F. D. 1 BRATTLEBORO, VERMONT

Town busy voiting alud comes very hard. I do hope things brighten up for you. Much love to Helen Mybers J Glakery

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There is no doubt that these principles can be taught in academies just as Cezanne's and even more those of Mondrian (who established "perfect painting" and reached in this way a definite end). But the limitlessness of the "new language" prevents it from being a prescription. It can not be taken literally but only as a principle to be experienced:

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The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY

Collection: Series.Folder:

Hons Rachter II.A.5

March 10, 1954

Mrs. Rose Fried 6 East 65th Street New York City

Dear Rose Fried:

In our last discussion you referred to the easily explainable teach-learnable elementary principles of my paintings. The fact that I operate with elementary form-relationship like black: white, big:small, one:many, etc. does not distinguish my work from the teaching in some good art schools!? That is perfectly true. But so is also that I, one generation after the early Cubists, started, as they did, from the principles of Cezanne: teachable in every art school, the reduction of plastic expression to circle, square, triangle.

But as Cubism had already followed Cezanne's premises to the last consequences in the representation of nature, I, as a younger, could go on from their achievements to the following 3 steps:

- 1. To the use of unlimited free, or abstract form.
- 2. Besides circle, square, triangle, there were innumerable articulations on the canvas possible without losing sight of the spirit which had led Cezanne to the discovery of his 3 elements. No longer handicapped by subject matter it became a natural goal to organize the world of the elements: lines, shades, forms, colors on the canvas in order to gain finally the whole keyboard of articulations (or instruments) with which to organize the canvas. On this basis I had to re-learn to express myself as a painter in the new realm of the unlimited free form. I hit at first upon isolated phenomena (especially positive-negative relationships) 'till a whole scale of them revealed themselves. I know today that there are millions. So I came by analytic articulation of plastic material to a kind of preparatory step to a language (yet without syntax). The circle, square, triangle of Cezanne had been further defined.

There is no doubt that these principles can be taught in academies just as Cezanne's and even more those of Mondrian (who established "perfect painting" and reached in this way a definite end). But the limitlessness of the "new language" prevents it from being a prescription. It can not be taken literally but only as a principle to be experienced:

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Hans Rather II.A.5

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I felt already in 1917 that a structural principle was needed to save this new freedom of the unlimited form and color world from anarchy. This principle offered itself more or less naturally: as I could articulate only by contrasts and could establish relations only by analogies. We called it Counter-point. It became more than a technique but a philosophy which became important for my general outlook in life.

I have always felt a mysterious message in the fact that form and color have been liberated from guitars, madonnas, trees, harlequins, skirts and apples. To catch this message I have tried the voice of order and the voice of "disorder", planned composition and free improvisation, structure and chaos.

My Dada experience, as well as my expressionistic period, made me very conscious of the possibilities of completely uninhibited expression (stream of consciousness, etc.). But my background and philosophy revolted against a more than temporary allowance in this direction. I was, and I am unwilling to give up completely the freedom of will ("in as much as we have little consciousness, we have little free will") to the dictates of the creative forces inside us, in spite of my knowledge that all our inspiration and urge to create originates there.

As much as I realize that we are, as individuals, only tools of transcendental waves which direct us (you may call it tradition, culture, etc.) as much I believe in the necessity of the reality of a conflict in the confrontation between the original creative impulses and consciousness. As much as I wish and do submit to the original influence of the unconscious, of the richness of the chaos, of the flow of uncontrolled inspiration, as much as I try to have my ears near to it, just as much I do insist to articulate, control, and shape these visions coming out from the dark as soon as they become reality: that is painting on canvas. On this battlefield, the canvas, I have to deal with both sides: the irrational of my inspiration and the rational of the forms and colors dictating their own life.

This conflict is so real and so substantial to me that it is the subject of practically all my paintings in the last 20 years: To bring the organic form as the expression of nature, chaos, the unconscious, the emotional, into a relationship with the inorganic form, the human, the planned, the consciousness, the intellectual. If my approach might be called "classical" (in opposition to Kandinsky's free improvisations and theories) it certainly had been the approach of the advanced artists (like Mondrian, Malevitch, Eggeling, Delauney) I felt it as the necessary task of that time and as far as I am concerned this time has just begun.

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Hans Rachter II.A.5

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And here might be the place to include a few words about the "strange" fact that I follow principles in my paintings which do not seem to cover my activities as an experimental film maker, - an occupation I have stubbornly sustained over the last 33 years - besides painting. Yes, - as a necessary activity for me as a modern artist.

When in 1921 I had to jump from the canvas into the film medium (as the last and logical step in my groping for "general principles" of painting) I still remained in the realm of fine art. It was purely a new extension: an orchestration of space and color relationships. . . also in time, as before in space on scrolls - and before that on single paper sheets.

But once in contact with the new medium, it revealed its own possibilities as a modern art form as it did, at least temporarily, also for Leger, Man Ray, Duchamp, Picabia, and many other modern artists. - Film not only enlarged the possibilities of the canvas it offered practically an unlimited realm of exploration in every direction.

I agree with Malraux that the film has to and will tell "stories" because of its technical and aesthetic structure. - Painting should not.

As a modern artist I am as fond of "telling stories", as I am fond of not "telling stories." That is where film and painting differ from and exclude each other. But there are other sides where they blend emotionally from the point of view of modern artists, where they obviously express similar sensations with different means, on different levels, in a different medium but with the same love. Transformation (of forms or of persons), contrast and analogies, symphony of movements (of free forms or of objects or persons), harmony and balance - of form, color or human evolution that all belongs to one circle. The "Rhythm of Silence" (one of my paintings) is expressed differently on canvas than on film, but the sensation is fundamentally the same and follows - for me - one single continuous line of inspiration and helps me to widen both sides, film through painting, painting through film.

To make my point clearer I shall show parts of my new film experiments in this exhibition and shall talk about the 2 different but intimately connected forms of delight: abstract painting and modern film.

Cordially yours,

Hans Richter

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The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY

Collection: Series.Folder:

Hans Rather II.A.5

C/O GOODALE
THE SPICE BOX, SOUTHBURY ROAD WOODBURY, CONN. TEL, WOODBURY 170 -h Feb. 10, 1947 Dear Hans, I was glad to hear from you and to find out that youh) has have a studio so near to the place where I am living. But I am going next week to Boston and will be back by the end of the month. I will then be in New York and will telephone to you and we will arrange something to see each other. **≹ly** Looking forward to seeing you very soon, gabo Yours ever. the mean is in eve oblem Ba short .the ssential which hould offer sel paintting

The joy which articulated time-continuity elemnet gives to the senses, the excitemnet to see the growing and the climbing of life to be present at this process, that os what I think is "behind" this sensation which could and should be achieved.

And it is not limited to the problem of the mural(or the scroll)at my travels through Europe and the contacts I had here in the States, I have come to the conclusion that there is s mething like a n internat. movement on the way to grapple withthe time element

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Collection: Series.Folder: The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY Hons Richter II.A.5

Dear Mrs. Genauer,

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of Sept 15 and I am glad, that a promenent critic has taken I have read and reread your article ... issue with this question.

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Collection: Series.Folder: The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY Hans Richter II.A.5

Dear Mrs. Genauer,

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| The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY | Hans Richter | II.A.5 |

Dear Mrs. Genauer,

Painters, Arthrebs in meany allrande sept. 135.

of Sept! 34. I have read and reread your article.... of Sept! 3and I am glad, that a prominent critic has taken issue with this question.

It involves not only the relationship of painting to architecture but more generally the prb;em of modern pathting per se. Or at least that part of it which



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I have become very sensitive to just this problem as it has been my central problem for the last 40 years. As a matter of fact I have not done anything else si ce 1919 but investigate and approach the time problem (in my long and short scrolls) The movement of a theme, the development of a form, the proving of form complexes that is in my opinion also the essential problem of the mural. And the mural as well as the scroll) which is just another form of a mural offers new sensations, or should offer new sensations which are different from the ones by the easel paintting. The joy which articulated time-continuity elemnet gives to the senses, the excitemnet to see the growing and theclinking of life to be present at this process, that os what I think is "hehind" this sensation which could and should be achieved.

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Collection: Series.Folder: The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY Hons Richter II.A.5

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It involves not only the relationship of painting to architecture but more generally the prb;em of modern painting per se. Or at least that part of it which

thise to articulate or to orchestrate "continuity. lear hirs. I trans : 3 of you will have the time to listen to our recital of my songs, please true in: Thursday afternoon (may 13 th) 5.45 till 6 o'clock at exation W. n. 4. C (k = 830) With my bed regards

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I have become very sensitive to just this problem as it has been my central problem for the last 40 years. As a matter of fact I have not done anything else si ce 1919 but investigate and approach the time problem (in my long and short scrolls) The movement of a theme, the development of a form, the Frowing of form complexes that is in my opinion also the essential pr oblem of the mural. And the mural as well as the scroll) which is just another form of a mural offers new sensations, or should offer new sensations which are different from the ones by the easel paintting The joy which articulated time-continuity elemnet gives to the senses, the excitemnet to see the growing and theclinking of life to be present at this process, that os what I think is "hehind" this sensation which could and should be achieved.

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Dear Mrs. Genauer,

Painters, Artholich in meany alle ause sept 1359

of Sept. 3 and I am glad, that a prominent critic has taken issue with this question.

It involves not only the relationship of painting to architecture but more generally the prb;em of modern painting per se. Or at least that part of it which tries to articulate or to orchestrate a continuity.

What the futurists started 40 years ago has grown under the new apect of modern artmthough it has grown mostly underground and should give modern art a new impulse a new centre and rallying point which it probably needs tadly enough at this moments confusion of abstract and abstract expressionism.

The fact which you pointed out that most of the so called murals are not more than etended easel paintings is caracteristic. The element of time, se continuity, is not fucused upon, I would say not even considered. But time, I mean the continuity of events, whether figurative pr abstract, is in my opi nion the essence of any painting that goes over our normal visual angle and has to be looked at by mo ving the eye and the veiwpoint.

I have become very sensitive to just this problem as it has been my central problem for the last 40 years. As a matter of fact I have not done anything else si ce 1919 but investigate and approach the time problem (in my long and short scrolls) The movement of a theme, the development of a form, the prowing of form complexes that is in my ppinion also the essential problem of the mural. And the mural as well as the scroll) which is just another form of a mural offers new sensations, or should offer new sensations which are different from the ones by the easel paintting. The joy which articulated time-continuity elemnet gives to the senses, the excitemnet to see the growing and theclimbing of life to be present at this process, that os what I think is "behind" this sensation which could and should be achieved.

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| The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY | Hans Richter | II.A.5 |

in art. It broke our organized imathfor the firstvtome in Futurism but it has been with us ever since and it shows in varied forms in Calder, Gabo, Schoeffers, Ti nguely's Willke's mine, etc.

The problem of the mural as you outl8ined is only a further instance to demonstrate the general import nce and volume of this "movement " I am referring to. It is gratifying that you starte a discussion which, I am convinced, will be of importance and gaining in importance.

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The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY

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Hans Richter II.A.5

WILL GROHMANN · BERLIN - LANKWITZ BEETHOVENSTRASSE 39 · TELEFON 73 11 90

29. Juni 1963

V.510 63

Mein lieber Hans, liebe Friedel,

unsere herzlichen Grüße und Glückwünsche zuvor, der

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r. Wir wollen

Mach Mall möglichst lange offeren, nachoem wit im orthjahr beim besten willen nicht fahren konnten. So ist das Leben. Aber seid überzeugt, daß wir Euch beide lieben und daß es für uns nichts Schöneres gäbe als wenn wir uns so bald wie möglich wiedersehen könnten.

Von Herzen Euer

Entdeckte Euch in Wien und schicke meine herzlichsten Grüße und Wünsche auch gleich mit auf den Weg. Der "Baumeister" ist geschafft, aber einiges blieb liegen. Trotz der vielen Arbeit verlebten wir ein harmonisches und schönes Frühjahr, das Wetter war herrlich und unsere Laune vorzüglich. Wenn Israel überstanden ist, wird uns noch wohler sein. Wo kann man Euch in den nächsten Wochen erreichen? Schreibt auch mal.

Alles Liebe Eure

Amenie

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| The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY | Hans Richter | II.A.5 |

WILL GROHMANN . BERLIN - LANKWITZ BEETHOVENSTRASSE 39 . TELEFON 73 11 90

29. Juni 1963

V.510 63

Mein lieber Hans, liebe Friedel,

unsere herzlichen Grüße und Glückwünsche zuvor, der Heilige Stephan soll Euch beschützen und befördern, und Monsignore Mauer seinen Segen dazu geben. Er war kürzlich in Berlin zu einem Forum, aber ich war in Paris. Mußte

nicht käme. Aber die Hitze soll im Juli schrecklich sein.
September sind wir dann in Gauting, und wenn Ihr da noch da seid, vielleicht können wir dann ein Rendez-vous ausmachen.
Nach Mallorca wollen im Oktober und November. Wir wollen möglichst lange bleiben, nachdem wir im Frühjahr beim besten Willen nicht fahren konnten. So ist das Leben. Aber seid überzeugt, daß wir Euch beide lieben und daß es für uns nichts Schöneres gäbe als wenn wir uns so bald wie möglich wiedersehen könnten.

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Wir haben Euch gegenüber das schlechteste Gewissen der Welt, obwohl wir doch eigentlich sehr anständige Leute sind. Wir haben alles vernachlässigt, weil ich meinen "Baumeister" abliefern mußte, der im September erscheint und ein richtiges Buch ist. Das macht eine Sauarbeit mit Text, Katalogen und Herstellungsgeschichten, so daß wir beide noch nicht einmal dazu gekommen sind, Dir Dein Geburtstagsangebinde zu schicken. Wir hofften auch immer, Euch zu when. Aber nun ist es so, daß wir vom 15. Juli bis 3. August unseren AICA-Kongreß in Israel haben, ausgerechnet bei dieser Hitze, und ich kann leider nicht schwänzen, weil ich Ehrenpräsident bin. Das würde einen schlechten Eindruck machen, wenn ich nicht käme. Aber die Hitze soll im Juli schrecklich sein. September sind wir dann in Gauting, und wenn Ihr da noch da seid, vielleicht können wir dann ein Rendez-vous ausmachen. Nach Mallorca wollen im Oktober und November. Wir wollen möglichst lange bleiben, nachdem wir im Frühjahr beim besten Willen nicht fahren konnten. So ist das Leben. Aber seid überzeugt, daß wir Euch beide lieben und daß es für uns nichts Schöneres gäbe als wenn wir uns so bald wie möglich wiedersehen könnten.

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Amerie

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Hans Rachter II.A.5



GEORGE GROSZ

THE COTTAGE . HILAIRE FARM . HUNTINGTON . LONG ISLAND N.Y.

NovI8, 55

Lieber Hans:

War furchtbar nett von Dir, mir die schoene Zeichnung unseres alten dicken olympischen Freundes zu schicken. Wird einen Ehrenplatz hier an der Wand bekommen.

Morgen fahre ich auf paar Tage nach Syracuse. Du hast Recht wir muessen uns bald sehen, Eva wird das einleiten (per phone) sobald ich zurueck. Ist ja auch interessant eure Eindruecke von Europa zu hoeren und insbesondere von Deutschland, wo Du ja lang-lange nicht warst.

Dir und Friedel die herzlichsten Gruesse von Eva und mir

immer dein alter

George

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MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Teor Hans - I Triedel, dopse you'll come out to How Joon - all you wer your olde george



Grim visions-GEORGE GROSZ

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GEORGE GROSZ

202 SHORE ROAD

DOUGLAS MANOR, LONG ISLAND

Nov/7/42

Dear Jours Richter,

I am very sorry court attend
your coctone party - I am in
bed with a ferrific times orthack
x trouble - the whole head dizzy
don't feel to go any place.

I'll write you soon

so long

Gerrege SKO1Z

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The Cottage

Hilaire Farm

Huntington, Long Island, N. Y.

Aug. 20, 49

Lieber Hans:

Will mich hiermit nochmals bedanken fuer den schoenen Tag bei euch beiden dort auf eurer Farm im vergessenen Tal. Besonders auch der 'Haufrau' Friedel sei gedankt fuer das prima Pusztahuhn luncheon und den original Wiener Apfelkuchen, dies auch im Namen und sehr herzlichst von Eva.

Gruess auch deinen Adlatus Franck, der mir gefiel und dessen Zeichnung mich noch ein Stueck uebers Wasser begleitete als ich merkwuerdige Wolkenformen beobachtete. Pelletier kam mir irgendwie bekannt vor, nach Flammarion gibt es ja so etwas wie 'deja vue' man weiss dann aber nie recht, wars im Traume oder in Wirklichkeit, oft ist es einem ja so als hingen wir alle durch unsichtbare Faeden zusammen. I don't know. Mag dein ruhiges und klares Urteil und unterhalte mich gern mit Dir Hans, das weisst Du. Calder war vielleicht mal ein Seehund auch so grunzig verspielt. Auch an Bauer muss ich denken und was der mun wohl den ganzen Tag mit sich selbst anfaengt? in den 30 Zimmern und als unnahbarer Einsiedler, ein Millionaer gefangen im eigenen GEISTREICH.

Hab noch Du und Friedel und die Kinder ein paar friedliche Tage dort, das wuensche ich euch.

Tage doro, das whensene Ion

So long as always dein alter

TEL. 29-347

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LA COLLEZIONE PEGGY GUGGENHEIM

ilec. 2 Dear hans: Thank you for your letter about Count Z orzi > Anyhow he died a few days ago; So we shall never know what he meant/ I regret his death? e was one of the few gentelementeft of the old school; as you knew him you must have realized his qualities but your experience was unfortunate. Now I want to ask you a great favour. I promised Raoul's mother the cuttings of the film in which he appear R eared, mg She keeps phoning for them. If she only sees this small bil D it will make her happy. Phease could you send it to her. I am going to E Paris on the I2 so there is no use mailing it to me; Her address is 50%0 San Marco; Thank you very much. I adore the coffee set of gold Freida gave me; It is Othe chicist thing in the house. Lots of love to /ou 3. There is no news. Vence is cold & dreary trainy, Thank written a look of Memore pordued By Takan hubbaster. Thus time they are sex less leex amusey any how. VENEZIA

The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY

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Hans Richter II.A.5

ilec. 20

Dear Michter

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GREG

Thank you for your xwas card/ Im amaned by its contents: Of course I cant think of anything that I want pore than to see the films you made of us here and also I am happy to think that at least that will remain of Raoul; Thank god it exists; he only reason I was hestitant last year about getting more shooting done was because those boys who did the shooting left Venice; Did you know that the tall beautiful one Charles died while he was filming; he walked backwards a and fell over a cliff/Isnt it terrible two such young and wonderfully healthy and beutiful young men should both be dead since you made your film here; Thank god I believe in theafter life or I couldnt endure losing people so very young; by sister Benite was only 32 and ohn Holms was 36 when they died and now aoul was 33. Im wondering if Frieda saw this when she read his hand writing I dont know if such things appear but it seems to me they ought to I hear the film is magnificent and am very proud to be in it and should be terribly unhappy if you left us out.

Im going to india to visit Faul Bowles in Ceylon first and then to see all I can and have a change which i badly need. Its rloomy here now/

All best vishes for the New Year and love to Frieda

and to you too

oegny

V Jan 256

VENEZIA TEL 29-347

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January 12, 1955

Mrs. Peggy Guggenheim Palazzo Venier Dei Leon 701 S. Gregorio Venice, Italy

Dear Peggy:

Thank you for your letter of December 20th. It is indeed a sad story to see these young men die so suddenly. I shall certainly incorporate the little study I made in Venice of you and Raoul into my new film if you wish so. But before doing so I must tell you what the material lends itself to. It was conceived as a kind of Johnnie and Frankie story. In another words it is the story of the "helpless Male" who always throws his arms up in despair but doesn't do anything about it, the jack-in-the-box. Nothing else can be done with hhis little material I shot in one day even if I, what I planned to do now, to add a lot of embelishing material to the meager outline which I was able to shoot in Venice. Of course I do not consider it a sacrilege to Raoul to show him after his death in such a funny way in which he will become the here of this little story which ends as you know with you drowning yourself tragic-comically.

you drowning yourself tragic-comically.

So Peggy that's the story, please confirm to me your side and I hope it doesn't take too long in case you are just somewhere in India or therearound.

Love from Fridl and me,

Hans

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Peggy Su jeukeun

Oct 11.

BY AIR MAIL

AEROGRAMME

All the pictures
written to me
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e her out;
s; It seems that
for as far as
for as far as
sent to
Southleans rlease

Second fold here—

Sender's name and address: Poggy lupurbering Chartened Baul y modia Colombo Coylon

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED THIS LETTER MAY BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL

O Dam hime interesting Lelind his VENEZIA TEL. 29-347 flasses - JV Makes a sort of anniel Character of fantasy

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Dear Richter; Visit Land on the Magic Bland

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O you brought walk throwing the water to get to the

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all my line, Peggen is in him aftered in.

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O Dam hime interesting Leliand his
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pli3) your Jehn mill have a very strange numbered liver more viving the dead

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Veggy Gu jeuheun

Oct 11.

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Dear Richter;

Im so glad the films turned out well: All the pictures Freda took with my camera were marvellous: Thad has written to me about doing a few close ups; Too bad the maid is not here just now but might come down one day later or we might leave her out;

The situation with the Biennale is this; It seems that

you brought the films into Italy yourself and therefor as far as Italy is concerned they dont exist here and cant be sent out by post-however they can send them to the Am Embassy at Rome to be sent to you: Also they dont seem to know exactly how many you brought; rlease write them your wishes in the matter and send me a copy of your 16 letter and I will keep after them:

Summer is over; Its raining and cold but prople keep coming to Venice; We have a whole ballet company from London of Anton Dolin; Also Carola Gideon just arrived and last week all kind5

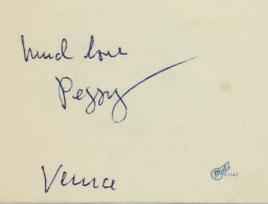
of people:

I so much enjoyed your visit here; and my birthday was wonderful thanks to you: it might have been awful as it was the anniversary of Pegeens dramatic act: She was just here with her baby and her brother; We had a lovely time; Herbert Read was here at the same time for the Unesco congress; Three hundred people came for it and were all terribly disappointed : nothing happened ; it was abla big mess but at least brought lots of amusing people here and made Venice very gay;

Much love to Frida and thank her for her Lines:

mill sund you a vice plato of jour P.P.S after Careful Conesideration) decide I am more interesting Letind my VENEZIA TEL. 29-347 flasses - IV Makes a sort of annual character of fautasy

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Hear Mares.

I poss for rown loudy letter. Ind a relief as I had thrown away your address of the longs Queen where to Dam so where to Dam so upsets about the film, as

Dam so upsets about the plus, as
Potens Brady Days the pair about
Rooml news not a pear in the film
+ I have written Cours 2022i to Tell been Jam so vous) did hot say It weten you were here, hut I did hot really how the film a treased To the huplic. It seems it is very had that to olevered be but in The role of a Kijolo + Leofer Talk a mud here Altere is on weech Scaudal anytion Daw a hard his family well sue

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Tou. This mother is any to see the film lus if she did fod thewens nelias slo resuld them. I did les realize it heepself tople 9 see explained Tal & we, luis I how realize Has the Mulgar minded hubbe well sep it well other eyes. In temps sone, !!!! I ward Venusly & have that has of the film mill Raon for hugself aleeg how of Just that & the extra Cets of hun p her hus the without the rows of the film she lould with the led with hours Mud love to Jour all fodored Jour Viset

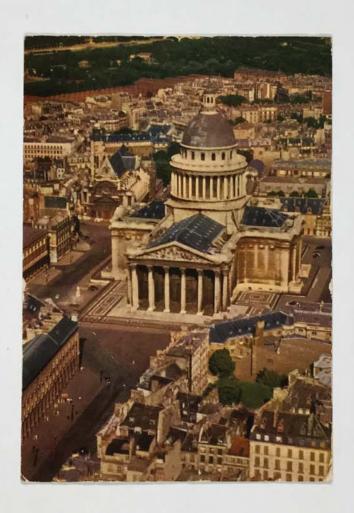
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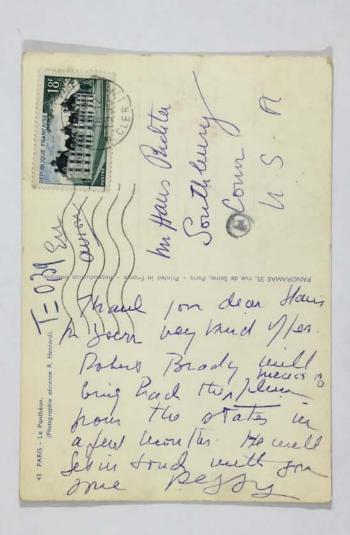
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Via Merulana 247, Roma. September 25,1950

Dear Hans:

We all like it here sommed, that mobody is thinking of ever going back. Or at least not before the beginning of November.

Our production of the Medium is in full swing, almost one half of the showing is done and another mouth of it is needed. So, please don't count on me to return to the College before the 15th of November, very roughly speaking (rather later than sooner) Please give my regards to Frank

Bust from Hella, Julie (the baly) and me.

V Sept 50.