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## State of New Iersey

DEPARTMENT OF INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES

POST OFFICE BOX 1237 TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

December 12, 1972

Mr. John Szarkowski Curator of Photography Museum of Modern Art 11 West 53 Street New York, New York 10019

Dear Mr. Szarkowski:

I felt our past conversations and relationship around Diane Arbus required, in a real sense, this note from me to you. I did not get to the "preview" and probably will not be able to get in to see the exhibit by December 31. A series of critical events within my immediate family has kept me close to the hospitals in Trenton and will do so for the remainder of this month.

My regrets at not being able to come in within the period of exhibition is enhanced by the telephone calls I received from individuals who have seen the exhibit and knew Mrs. Arbus' work in this State. They have indicated, without exception, how highly they esteem the exhibit and, perhaps with understandable provincialism, felt the Vineland pictures were the "best of the lot."

I have noted that the exhibition is to be in other cities after its run at the Museum of Modern Art. It seems unlikely to me that I will be able to see it in St. Louis or Fargo or Salt Lake City if I can't get in to see it at the Museum of Modern Art. Too bad for me!

Sincerely,

Maurice G. Kott, Ph.D., Director Division of Mental Retardation

MGK:mb

The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY

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## State of New Jersey

## DEPARTMENT OF INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES

P. O. BOX 1237

TRENTON, 08625

August 15, 1972

Mr. John Szarkowski, Director Department of Photography The Museum of Modern Art 11 West 53rd Street New York, New York 10019

Dear Mr. Szarkowski:

This will confirm our telephone conversation of August 10th in regard to your request of July 26th to exhibit photographs which Diane Arbus made at a public institution for the retarded in New Jersey. We agreed in the telephone conversation upon the following conditions:

- (1) The number of institutional photographs would be limited. While we did not specify or agree to a particular number or percentage, you were sympathetic to my request that the number of photographs of retarded persons shown in the exhibit should not be overwhelming so that it would not appear that the entire exhibit was photographs of retarded individuals.
- (2) In order to assure the least possible invasion of the privacy of the individuals photographed, the location of the institution shall not be publicized. In this regard I believe I neglected to indicate to you that the editor of Aperture, in transmitting copies of that publication's monographs to me, indicated that he was aware of the site locations of New Jersey institutions. I should appreciate it if you would advise him to delete reference to location in the monograph.
- (3) The use of the photographs is to be restricted to artistic exhibitions in museums. Except for those photographs which will appear in Aperture, no publication in magazines or in other mass media or use of the photographs for commerce or profit is to be permitted.
- (4) In regard to the above, however, I did agree that one of the photographs of a masked subject may be utilized in conjunction with such publicity as the Museum of Modern Art issues in conjunction with the Retrospective of Diane Arbus' work.

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Mr. John Szarkowski, Director Page 2 August 15, 1972

The following photographs are to be eliminated: #6150#5, 7053#6, 7054#5.

Print number 6579#14 may be used at your discretion, provided, however, some legend or caption clearly indicates that the subjects were costumed in conjunction with a Halloween ceremony.

The remaining photographs may be used at your discretion within conditions 1 through 4 enumerated above. These include 6231#9, 6234#12, 6645#7, 6656#?, 6662#7, 6665#1, 6667#2, 6672#15, 6677#4, 6743?, 6743#?, 6743#3, 6744#16, 6746#?, 6746#4, 6746#6, 6749#1, 6749#7, 6749#8, 7052#7, 7053#1, 7054#R, 7234#6, 7234#9, 7239#10, and 7240#6.

If you have further questions, please address them to me and I shall make every effort to answer them.

Sincerely,

Maurice G. Kott, Ph.D., Director Division of Mental Retardation

MGK:mb

The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY

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## The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 956-6100 Cable: Modernart

John Szarkowski Director Department of Photography Tel. (212) 956-2695

July 26, 1972

Dear Dr. Kott:

I am sure that you remember Diane Arbus, who photographed at the Vineland and Woodbridge State Schools on several occasions during the two years before her death last summer. The Museum is currently preparing a large retrospective exhibition of her work, which will open here in November and subsequently be shown in other major American art museums. An exhibition of this nature, as you know, is appropriate only for the work of major artists. Diane Arbus was surely that; the influence of her work, not only on photography but on the artistic community as a whole, has been profound, and the Museum considers itself privileged to bring her work to the large public.

I am writing now to make sure that there are no obstacles to including in the exhibition the photographs that Arbus made in New Jersey institutions. These pictures seem to me to constitute perhaps the most moving and profoundly sympathetic body of work of her career; in addition they are I think a tribute to the spirit and humanity of their subjects. Although the letter is is your files, I am enclosing a copy of the letter from Commissioner McCorkle to Miss Arbus which states that the pictures are not to be used in the mass media, and that they are to be used only with the explicit approval of the Division Directors involved. I am therefore asking your approval of the inclusion of from fifteen to twenty prints, primarily from the Vineland group, in the exhibition. Rough proof prints of these pictures are now being prepared for your inspection. The quality of these prints is of course not to be compared with the finished exhibition prints.

The Museum is working in cooperation with the non-profit publisher Aperture in an effort to prepare a monograph on Arbus that will accompany the exhibition. Aperture's publications are consistently of the highest level of quality and intellectual probity, and I can assure you that the pictures will be treated with the respect that they and their subjects deserve. I am therefore requesting that permission also be granted to include a somewhat smaller number of the Vineland and Woodridge pictures in the monograph, which will serve as a permanent record of Diane Arbus's splendid contribution to our understanding of each other. I am asking Mr. Michael Hoffman, publisher of Aperture, to send you a copy of one of their recent books.

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Pg. 2

I will take the liberty of calling your office early next week, and at the time will try to answer any question you may have concerning my request.

With all best wishes,

John Szarkowski

Dr. Maurice G. Kott Director Division of Mental Retardation State of New Jersey Department of Institutions and Agencies P. O. Box 1237 Trenton, New Jersey 08629

enc.

cc: Doon Arbus

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES
TRENTON 08625

March 6, 1969

Miss Diane Arbus 120 East 10 Street New York, New York 10003

Dear Miss Arbus:

It was a pleasure to meet with you last week and discuss your interest in a pictorial presentation of the Department's activities. As I told you at our meeting, the Department has policies in these areas and additionally has a strong sense of moral responsibility around persons, particularly children who are the recipients of its services.

Since we understand the pictures are not for use in magazines or in connection with the mass media and only will be used after explicit approval of Division Directors involved, Dr. Kott agreed to your taking pictures at institutions for the mentally retarded. It was easier in this Division then it may be in several others because of the relaxing of Departmental policy in the instance of mentally retarded children. However, as I understand it following the pictures in the institutions for the retarded you may wish to discuss with us the possibility of expanding the series to include other handicapped children who are recipients of our services. I assume you will write Dr. Kott directly to secure clearance for any pictures you are taking of retarded youngsters.

Again let me express my pleasure at the opportunity to meet with you last week and appreciation for your interest in our programs.

Personal regards and best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Commissioner

LWMcC:d

c.c. Mrs. Stevens Baird Dr. Maurice G. Kott

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## State of New Jersey DEPARTMENT OF INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES P. O. BOX 1237 TRENTON, 08628

February 17, 1969

Miss Diane Arbus 120 East 10 Street New York, New York 10003

Dear Miss Arbus:

It was with regret that I learned about your recent illness, but I am happy about your recovery and our impending meeting.

I have consulted with Commissioner McCorkle and we have tentatively fixed Friday, February 28, 1969, at 2 p.m., for the purposes of our meeting to discuss a photographic document on institutions and their population. Won't you please let me know if this is a convenient time. If by any chance it should not, we can fix some other date and time.

The Commissioner's office is at 135 West Hanover Street in the City of Trenton. Should you come by Pennsylvania Railroad, it is but a short districted by cab. If you elect to drive a parking yard immediately action from our office on Hanover Street. Mrs. Baird, you best advice on the best we are getting into Trenton and to the Commissioner's off.

Sincerely,

Maurice G. Kott, Ph.D., Director Division of Mental Retardation

MGK:mg

The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES
TRENTON 08625

May 29, 1968

Miss Diane Arbus 120 East 10th Street New York, New York 10003

Dear Miss Arbus:

Mrs. Mary Stevens Baird, a member of the State Board of Control of the Department of Institutions and Agencies, has called to my attention your recent letter to Mrs. Adrian Condon in regard the possibilities of undertaking a photographic document of persons confined in prisons, patients in mental hospitals, and residents of facilities for the mentally retarded.

Dr. Lloyd W. McCorkle, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Institutions and Agencies, is presently out of the country. I shall discuss your offer, through Mrs. Condon, with him on his return. I feel certain, however, that he does share my conception of the inordinate value of a photographic document or essay of this Department's services to the persons for which it is responsible.

It might be best to think about a meeting with Commissioner McCorkle so that we can define for you the nature and quality of our services in our institutions and agree on the intentions for which a photographic document would be prepared, before beginning such work.

May I assure you that I shall be thinking about a project of this variety, that I shall discuss this with the Commissioner, and that one of us will write you again, suggesting a time for a conference on this important matter.

Sincerely yours

Maurice G. Kott, Ph.D. Acting Commissioner

609. 292-2121

MGK:bb

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## State of New Jersey

VINELAND STATE SCHOOL
H. F. SCHULTZ, SUPERINTENDENT
VINELAND, N. J. 08360

June 14, 1971

Miss Diame Arbus 120 East 10th Street ` New York, New York 10003

Dear Miss Arbus:

Just a note to let you know we received either the repaired camera or a new camera from Willoughby's today and it seems to be operating well.

Again, we appreciate your thoughtfulness in donating the camera and the Recreation Division will be able to take snapshots which they were not able to do before your donation.

Thank you again.

Very truly yours,

H. F. Schultz Chief Executive Officer

William F. Dotts Director of Education

WFD/pb

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## State of New Jersey

VINELAND STATE SCHOOL
H. F. SCHULTZ, SUPERINTENDENT
VINELAND, N. J. 08360

June 14, 1971

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Very truly yours,

H. F. Schultz Chief Executive Officer

William F. Dotts Director of Education

WFD/pb

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## State of New Jersey

WOODBRIDGE STATE SCHOOL WOODBRIDGE 07095

LOUIS R. PIRONE SUPERINTENDENT

TELEPHONE 201 636-3400

August 6, 1971

The Family of Dion Arbus 463 West Street New York, New York

It was with sincere regret that I read of the death of Dion Arbus.

Twice during the past years, she had visited Woodbridge State School for the purpose of photographing the mentally retarded residents. Each time, her interest, concern and warm empathy were deeply felt. We had looked forward to seeing the results of her fine work.

Please accept our sympathy. She is held in high esteem and in warm remembrance.

Very truly yours,

Louis R. Pirone Superintendent

Joan Mills Public Information Assistant

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BC: Elizabeth Shaw

## The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 956-6100 Cable: Modernart

John Szarkowski Director Department of Photography Tel. (212) 956-2695

July 7, 1972

Dear Doon,

To make sure that we now have the same understanding of how the question of publicity will be handled on Diane's show it might be a good idea for me to put in writing what I understand our agreement to be:

- 1. At this point twenty five hotographs from the exhibition are to be available to the Museum for distribution without charge for reviews or news stories connected to the exhibition. These prints will be produced from copy negatives made from originals lent by you or in the Museum's collections. These pictures will be those included in the existing portfolio of original prints, plus the projected portfolio of reproductions, with the exception of the portrait of the nudist couple in the woods. In addition to these nineteen, the six additional pictures will include the early transvestite couple (35mm); the young nudist waitress with apron; Amy on Cape Cod; woman in black dress and black mask; and two pictures to be chosen, I suggest from the Vineland and late Central Park pictures.
- 2. It is essential that publications that express interest in publicizing the exhibition do understand that publicity prints are available from the Museum without charge. Obviously the Museum must not be in a position where it would appear that some publications are being charged for the same thing that others are being granted free of charge. If this is made clear, a publication that expresses a preference for working from original rather than copy prints, is free to get these from you at whatever price you determine, as long as it is understood that the charge is not for reproduction rights, since these are available from the Museum without charge.
- 3. I assume that you will be willing to make available by special arrangement and for payment, the larger part of the remaining (approximately 100) prints that will be included in the exhibition. It is understood that you will feel free to withhold for various reasons a reasonable number of pictures from publication at this time. With reference to pictures beyond the twenty five defined above, it goes without saying that you are free to grant exclusive rights to publications of your choice, and that you will at your discretion limit the number of pictures to be used by any one publication.

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What I am trying to clarify here is not a matter that can be defined by restrictions but is rather a matter of intent: I do assume that you will make pictures available for publicity at the time of the exhibition, beyond the twenty five to be released by the Museum.

- 4. The Museum agrees to not release publicity prints, in connection with the exhibition, except to other institutions that may be taking the show, after the end of April of next year, when the exhibition comes down here at the Museum. After this date publicity requests that seem potentially valuable will be cleared with you.
- 5. If the exhibition is to be properly publicized, it is essential that the Public Information Department here be kept fully aware of conversations on arrangements that you may wish to make directly with magazines and other publicity outlets. Elizabeth Shaw can at the same time keep you informed as to her activity.

I hope that this covers the publicity question and that it is a fair summary of what our understanding is. In practice the matter is less complicated than it probably sounds on paper.

Since I am writing things down I might as well make note of a couple of additional past arrangements: the \$1,000 payment made early this year was for five unspecified prints, which will be selected from the loan material.

The period for which the exhibition is being offered to other musuems extends through May of 1974. I think it rather likely that the Exhibitions Department may request an extension of the loan period later on, but at this point we will request the loans only until mid-1974. If there are other questions that you think might get to be problems, let us try to thrash them out now so that we can get on with the good part. And if there is anything in this leter that seems at variance with what we have agreed on, please do let me know.

With all best,

John Szarkowski

Miss Doon Arbus 55 West 68th Street New York, New York 10023

cc: Marvin Israel

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March 29, 1973

William A. Cradle
Esso Research and Enginerring Corp.
P.O. Box 639
Linden, New Mersey 07036

Dear Mr. Cradle: The sorry to say that because of the emprelally

We are sending you under separate cover a copy of the poster for the Diane Arbus exhibition as a courtesy of the Museum.

We hope that you will enjoy it for many years to come. We know that this has taken a long time, and we appreciate your patience.

Sincerely,

Thomas Lovoik

Acet. Prof. of Art History
The University of Wisconsis

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THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE / MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53201

Decemoer 19, 1972

Dear Mr. Barrio-Garay, Con

Thank you very much for your very kind comments on the 11 was arbus exhibition. It was of course an adventure to work with this body of pictures.

I am very pleased that you will be writing on the show for Goya. I am sorry to say that because of the especially delicate issues involved in publishing those photographs orppeople from mental hospitals, only one of the Untitled series has been released for reprint purposes. This one is Untitled (4), which shows four masked and contumed figures standing side by side in a field. I find it a very beautiful picture, and I hope it will meet your needs. I am asking our Department of Public Information to send you a print. such as numbers 10, 14, or 15-- winderely, y number 15.

My congratulations for a great exhibition.

Sincerely yours,

Jose L. Barrio-Garay
Asst. Prof. of Art History
The University of Wisconsin

JLB:pl Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201

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THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE / MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53201

DEPARTMENT OF ART HISTORY

TELEPHONE (414) 963-4330

December 14, 1972

Mr. John Szarkovski, Director Department of Photography Museum of Modern Art 11 West 53rd St. New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Szarkovski:

Last Sunday I had the great pleasure of visiting your current exhibition of Diane Arbus' work and plan to review the show for Goya. Currently, I am correspondent in the U.S. for this Spanish art journal, a position previously held by Barbara Rose.

I would like to request a photograph to illustrate the review. I would prefer one of the <u>Untitled</u> series, such as numbers 10, 14, or 15--preferably number 15.

My congratulations for a great exhibition.

Sincerely yours,

Jose L. Barrio-Garay Asst. Prof. of Art History

and Banks

JLB:pl

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1882 Columnia Road N.W. Vashington, B.C. 200009 November 16, 1972

November 28, 1972

Dear Sirs,

Arbas. I would very much like to know if you have a book of your expear Miss Rosenstein, of a book showing her portraits.
Also, could you please the state of the exhibit will travel

A monograph on Diane Arbus has been published to coincide with the exhibition by Aperture. It is a very well done publication with 80 excellent plates and a very fine text by Arbus herself. A special paper cover edition fionether the Museum is available from our bookstore at \$9:50. Iacannot tell you the price of the hard cover version.

The exhibition will be coming to the Baltimore Museum on October 15th, 1973 to run through November 25th.

Sincerely, Rosenstin

Miss Judy Rosenstein 1882 Columbia Road, N.W. 36 Washington, D. C. 200009

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1882 Columbia Road N.W. 36 Washington, D.C. 200009 November 16, 1972

Dear Sirs,

I am very interested in your current exhibit of Diane
Arbus. I would very much like to know if you have a book
of your exhibit or do you know of a book showing her portraits.
Also, could you please tell me if the exhibit will travel
to any museum in the Washington area.

If possible, please send me a list of publications or your little thingie from the exhibit. Anxious to hear from you, and wishing I could be in New York now to see the exhibit.

Thank you.

Judy Rosenstin

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# M. H. de YOUNG MEMORIAL MUSEUM CALIFORNIA PALACE OF THE LEGION OF HONOR

Pebruary 1, 1973

Mr. John Szarkowski, Director Department of Photography The Museum of Modern Art Il West 53rd Street

February 14, 1973

Denr John

Mr. Thomas H. Garver
Curator in Charge
Department of Exhibitions
M.H. de Young Memorial Museum
Golden Gate Fark, San Francisco 94118
Dear Tom:
Thank you very much for your good letter about the Arbus

Show. It was indeed astonishing to see the Exhibition's reception. I had assumed that the Show would be of considerable interest to our audience, but I in no way anticipated the intensity of the response.

Thank you also for your kind words about the wall label.

It is always surprising to hear that people actually read what inevitably seems a gratuitous and redundant curatorial

opinion. I am enclosing a Xerox of the text.

With all best.

Sincerely,

Department of Exhibition

THG/fb

JS:ms

Encl. (1)

The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY

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# M. H. de YOUNG MEMORIAL MUSEUM CALIFORNIA PALACE OF THE LEGION OF HONOR

February 1, 1973

Mr. John Szarkowski, Director Department of Photography The Museum of Modern Art 11 West 53rd Street New York City 10019

Dear John,

On January 21st, I, along with, I would estimate, about half of Manhattan, stood patiently in line at the Museum of Modern Art to do what I understand has become known as "Diane Arbus step to the left shuffle." Even though I had known many of the photographs from earlier exhibitions from having seen them in her studio and in publications as well, it was truly a remarkable exhibition, made all the more remarkable by the fact that, in one sense, the people who populated her photographs were in that room looking at them.

Your brief statement on the wall at the end of the exhibition was brilliant and touching, and I would very much like to get a copy of it. The information people at the front desk did supply me with a press release, but the texts, of course, are not the same. I would be most appreciative if you could get me a xerox copy of this, and I'm really pleased that you did the show. I only regret that Peter Selz beat us to it.

Cordially,

Thomas H. Garver Curator in Charge Department of Exhibitions

THG/fb

	Collection:	Series.Folder:
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March 6, 1973

Mr. Joseph W. Welsh 450 Park Avenue New York, New York 10022
Dear Mr. Welsh:

I am happy to inform you that a print of the photograph of your wife taken by Diane Arbus in the large size that you requested is currently in the Department offices.

I intend to have this copied and an 8 x 10" print made for your personal use. This work will take approximately two weeks, at which time I will send both prints to you at this address.

Thank you for your patience.

Sincerely yours, Sincerely you

Dennis Longwell Assistant Curator

DL:ms

	Collection:	Series.Folder:
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January 5 1973

Dear Mr Welsh

Mr. Szarkowski has asked me to tell you that he has spoken with born Arbus and she will make a print of the shot graph of your wife which we will be happy to present to you as a gift. Miss Arbus will make the print available as soon as she can conveniently do so.

With all good wishes -

Sincerely,

Patricia M. Walker

Mr. Joseph W. Welsh 450 Park Avenue New York, New York 10022

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JOSEPH W. WELSH 450 PARK AVENUE NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022

December 28, 1972

Mr. John Szarkowski Director Department of Photography The Museum of Modern Art 11 West 53rd Street New York, New York 10019

Dear Mr. Szarkowski:

I enjoyed meeting you the other day when I came to view the picture of my wife in the Diane Arbus exhibit. As I mentioned to you, we were somewhat surprised to see her photograph, excellent as it is, included not only in the exhibit but also in the book without having been previously notified.

Nevertheless, this is a beautiful picture, and we are looking forward to receiving a print of it. In fact, I would appreciate having one the same size as in the exhibit and another one somewhat smaller. If you would care to dispose of the same print and frame now hanging in the museum, I will be glad to take it off your hands, although I presume this will be kept for possible future exhibits.

You can send these prints either to my office or to our apartment at 3 East 71st Street, New York. Thank you very much for your cooperation and also for the free booklet you gave me.

Sincerely,

Indet!

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DL:ms Enc. 1

P. S. A check for \$107.00 has been received from
Mrs. Bliss Parkinson. You will find this check enclosed.

Print \* mailed to Edich Jacobs 3/7/73 this 150 R

The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY

Collection: Series.Folder:

MoMA Exhs. 1015.3 2.

MALING INSTRUCTIONS	3+7-73		
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LATE OF HAULE

Contents one photograph

Value of contents \$150.00

Miss Doon Arbus 55 West 68 Street New York, New York

Dear Doon:

The names and addresses you requested are as follows:-

- 1) "The Woman who Passes on the Street" who receives a free print is Edith H. Jacobs, 222 West 77 Street, New York, New York 10024, Apt. 623.
- "The Woman on a Park Bench on a Sunny Day" is Mrs. Joseph W. Welsh, 450 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10022. She, too, will receive a free print.

Mrs. Bliss Parkinson, 215 East 72 Street, New York, New York 10021, wishes to purchase the "Giant at Home with his Parents", which you have sent us.

She would also like a print of "Christmas in Levittown", if it is possible for you to arrange it.

Thanks for your help.

Sincerely yours,

Dennis Longwell Assistant Curator

DL:ms Enc. 1

TOTAL COST of MAILING: \$

Beham Receipt

MURRILL S. (20/00)

P. S. A check for \$107.00 has been received from Mrs. Bliss Parkinson. You will find this check enclosed.

Print "1 mailed to Edith Jocobs 3/7/73 Ans 150 12

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The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	MoMA Exhs.	1015.32

MAILING INSTRUCTIONS FROM:	Date: 3 • 7 • 73	of Talborst w Gardens N.y 114
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Tom Lovcik	Photography 2696	newary 31, 1973
TYPE of MAIL:		
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222 West 77th St. #623 New York, N.Y. 10022 International, to:	Contents: one photograph	
	Value of contents: \$150.00	
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Fl ARBUS 8409 Tulbarst Lew Gardens, n.y 1145 anuary 31, 1973 Edith H Josobs 222 W. Mith Sl NYC 10024 apl 623 Du EN 2-1100 to drow ming similarity your between two of the works of traquite different artists in different mediums. That is the photograph of Diane arbus titled "faintical tivins" of a Their club in new yerry and the vil painting "Doug Enfants" by Dincera Van Gogh. The facial expressions of the children in bath warks is penartubly similar. We thought this would be of intrust to you Gauss truly, Mus Mrs. Thomas Ircina

	Collection:	Series.Folder:
The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	MoMA Exhs.	1015.32

Fl ARBUS

8409 Talbarst Lew Gardens, N. 4 1145 January 31, 1973

Curator, Photography Thurum of Thodernart Nyc, New York, Leve Sie,

We feet we should write a lotter to drow your attention to the astonishing similarity between two of the works of two quite different artists in different mediums. That is the photograph of Diane arbus titled "frentiese twins" of a from club in new yeary and the air painting "Dang Enfants" buy Dincens Van Gogh. The facial "Dang Enfants" buy Dincens Van Gogh. The facial expressions of the shuldren in boat works is premarkably primilar. We thought this is premarkably primilar. We thought this

Mus Mrs. Thomas Sicina

The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
	MoMA Exhs.	1015.32

Diane Arbus was born in New York City on March 14, 1923. She was the middle child of three and her father, David Nemerov, owned a large Fifth Avenue department store called Russek's. She grew up on Central Park West and attended the Ethical Culture and Fieldston Schools. At the age of fourteen, she met Allan Arbus and they were married four years later. They became fashion photographers and, for a number of years, worked for most of the major fashion magazines in the United States. In 1959, Diane studied photography with Lisette Model who, in a sense, gave her the license to seriously pursue her own work. She received Guggenheim Fellowships in 1963 and 1966. A year later some of the results of those projects were exhibited by John Szarkowski at The Museum of Modern Art in a show representing the works of three photographers and entitled "New Documents." For her part in this exhibit she received great acclaim. Her photographs have since been included in the permanent collections of museums throughout the United States and Europe. In 1970, she made a portfolio of ten of her photographs which was to be the first of a series of limited editions of her work. Diane Arbus committed suicide on July 26, 1971. In July 1972 she was the first American photographer to be exhibited at the Venice Biennale.

photographer, that gives these pictures their great dignity. And it is their dignity that is, I think, the source of their power.

Hillon Kramer, The New York

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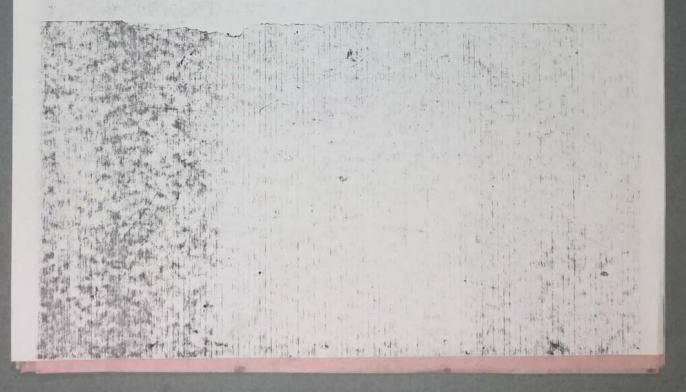
Diane Arbus was not a theorist but anaartist. Her concern was not to buttress philesophical positions but to make pictures. She loved photography for the miracles it performs each day by accident, and respected it for the precise intentional tool that it could be, given talent, intelligence, dedication and discipline. Everyone knows that honesty is a good thing. Arbus knew also that it is not a gift, endowed by a native naivete, not a matter of style, or politics, or philosophy. It is rather a reward bestowed for bravery in the face of truth. Arbus does not avert her eyes. Her pictures challenge the basic assumtpions on which most so-called documentary photograph has been assumed to rest. They are concerned with private rather than social realities, with psychological rather than visual coherence, with the prototypical and mythic rather than the topical and temporal. Her real subject is no less than the unique interior lives of those she photographed.

When Diane Arbus died last year, she had already become a legend and an influence among serious photographers of the younger generation. If one's natural tendency is to be skeptical about a legend, it must be said that all suspicion vansihes in the presence of the Arbus work, which is extremely poerful and very strange. It is usually said of hiss Arbus that she specialized in freaks, and it is certainly true that her work rejects our customary notions of social normality. But the power of these pictures does not derive from their subject matter alone. It derives in equal degree from the style hiss Arbus developed to deal with them. In her pictures nothing is improvised or merely 'caught.' The subjects face the camera with insterst and patience. They are fully aware of the picture-making process. They collaborate. It is this element of participation, this suggestion of a dialogue between the subject and the photographer, that gives these pictures their great dignity. And it is their dignity that is, I think, the source of their power.

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September 27, 1972

Nr. Nichael Hoffman
Aperture
Elm Street
Millerton, N. Y. 12546

Dear Michael:

After our conversation yesterday afternoon, I feel it is important to clarify our needs and preferences regarding the elements and rubrics for the title-page, copyright page, and cover of the Museum's paperbound edition of DIANE ARBUS.

1. Title-page. The credit line we want is:

Special Edition for The Museum of Modern Art (note capital "The").

This same line should also appear on the cover of our edition, and I suggest it be placed at the bottom of the back of the cover.

- Copyright page. We do not want the dates of the exhibition to appear on this page (or enywhere else), contrary to any impression we may have given previously.
- 3. Cover. I was disturbed to learn that you are considering the omission of the title of the book (or any other type) on the front of the cover. I'm afraid we must insist that the title appear on the front of the cover if we are to sell the book.

We suggest that the spine carry the title plus the publisher's credit line, i.e.:

DIANE ARBUS An Aperture Monograph

We think it is important that the back of the cover carry a paragraph or two of copy. This could be either simple, straightforward descriptive copy (such as that on the Walker Evans book cover I am enclosing) or it might be more in the line of a "blurb", such as you have suggested might be forthcoming from Milton Kramer.

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Mr. Michael Boffman

The Museum of Modern Art

September 27, 1972

The "Special Edition .... " line should follow, as mentioned in #1. above.

Finally, we prefer that the price not be printed on our copies, which we will sticker.

I look forward to seeing the mechanicals of the title and copyright pages, the cover copy before it is set, and the cover mechanical. I understand, too, that you are having a duray made up that Merna Thoma and I can look at before finally deciding on the price.

If any of the above is unclear, or if I can be of any help in the meantime, please give me a call.

5 Yours sincerely,

Carl Norse Acting Head

CM/m Enc.

cc: Marvin Israel Boon Arbus J. Szarkowski Morna Thoma

The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY

Collection: Series.Folder:

MoMA Exhs. 1015.32.

## The Museum of Modern Art

To John Szarkowski

From Richard H. Koch

Date June 19, 1972

Re

Since our recent street corner conversation regarding the possibility of a Diane Arbus book I've discussed the matter with Bucky Block. Based on his past knowledge of the Arbus material he shares my view that our publishing it in book form might result in substantial exposure to claims for defamation or invasion of privacy, and does not consider that our regular on-premises coverage would attach. He offered, however, to look into the cost of special publisher's liability coverage with respect to such a book, and I hope to hear from him by the time you return to New York.

cc: Mr. Richard E. Oldenburg

The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
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June 21, 1972

Ms. Doon Arbus Richard Avedon Photographic Studio 110 E. 58th Street New York, New York

Dear Doon Arbus:

I am truly sorry that we were not able to work out a viable plan for Museum participation in the publication of DIANE ARBUS. As you know, we needed the collaboration of a trade publisher to bring it off, and neither Viking nor New York Graphic nor Doubleday would agree to join forces with us. They refused primarily because we were asking them to manufacture the book on a crash schedule in time for the opening of the exhibition in November (which did not allow them time to announce it to their sales force and to the trade) and not for lack of enthusiasm. Indeed, I believe there is a good chance that Doubleday or another trade publisher will want to publish the book. The Biennale reviews should certainly strengthen your presentation. We would, of course, order a number of copies of the book for our two stores. In addition, you should point out that the several museums taking the exhibition after our showing would probably order the book in quantity should it be available while the exhibitions are in progress.

Our estimates on quantities of 3,000 cloth copies and 12,000 paperbound copies gave us plant and manufacturing unit costs of \$3.07 and \$2.60 respectively. However, I recommend that you not present such costs to a prospective publisher, but instead let him work out his own costs on the basis of his own quantities and manufacturing plans.

I wish you every success in finding a good publisher for the book. If I can be of any help, please call me.

With every best wish to you and to Marvin Israel.

Yours sincerely,

Carl Morse Acting Head

CM/cl cc: John Szarkowski

The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
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Diane Arbus was born in New York City on March 14, 1923. She was the middle child of three and her father, David Nemerov, owned a large Fifth Avenue department store called Russek's. She grew up on Central Park West and attended the Ethical Culture and Fieldston Schools. At the age of fourteen, she met Allan Arbus and they were married four years later. They became fashion photographers and, for a number of years, worked for most of the major fashion magazines in the United States. In 1959, Diane studied photography with Lisette Model who, in a sense, gave her the license to seriously pursue her own work. She received Guggenheim Fellowships in 1963 and 1966. A year later some of the results of those projects were exhibited by John Szarkowski at The Museum of Modern Art in a show representing the works of three photographers and entitled "New Documents." For her part in this exhibit she received great acclaim. Her photographs have since been included in the permanent collections of museums throughout the United States and Europe. In 1970, she made a portfolio of ten of her photographs which was to be the first of a series of limited editions of her work, Diane Arbus committed suicide on July 26, 1971. In July 1972 she was the first American photographer to be exhibited at the Venice Biennale.