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The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
	Valentin	III.A.54

18 Dec 52

Dear Curt

I still have misgivings about giving an object to the Tate

Sandy

thanks for $ (arranged for)

324

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December 22, 1952

Mr. Alexander Calder
Painter Hill Road
Roxbury, Connecticut

Dear Sandy:

A rich collector was in and is very eager to acquire one of your early wire sculptures like the ones in the Museum of Modern Art. Is there anything available?

Best,

CV:JW

325

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	Valentin	III.A.54

my dear fellah!
Your figure
is perfect!!!
Sandy

326

4 Jan 53

ve recorded

15 Nov. — 1000.—
5 Dec. 1000.—
20 Dec. 500.—

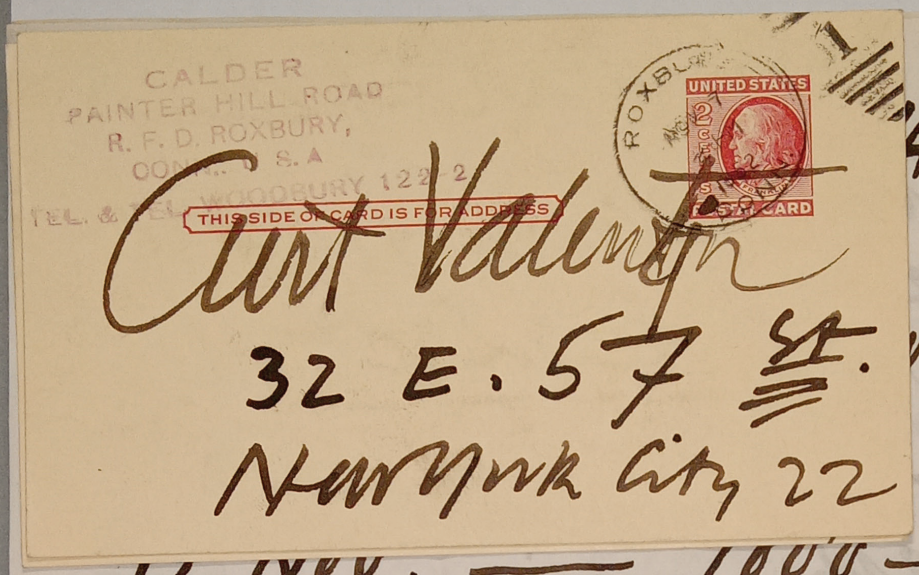
— but nothing of Jan. 5
or afterwards
so could you "stop" that
check, and send me
another? please!

Hm. Giovanni Ponti
President
Biennale di Venezia
is the guy I have heard

329

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Curt Valentin
32 E. 57 St.
New York City 22

4 Jan 53

...e recorded

15 Nov. — 1000.—

5 Dec. 1000.—

20 Dec. 500.—

— but nothing of Jan. 5
or afterwards
so could you "stop" that
check, and send me
another? please!

Hon. Giovanni Ponti
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is the guy I have heard

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Curt wrote me in Oct. about Alfredo Boulton Caracas, Vez. who wanted a mobile + was to be in N.Y. Dec 15 + 16. Did he show? Happy Newyear. Sandy

327

14 Jan 53

ve recorded

13 Nov.	—	1000.—
5 Dec.		1000.—
20 Dec.		500.—

— but nothing of Jan. 5 or afterwards

so could you "stop" that check, and send me another? please!

Hm. Giovanni Ponti
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is the guy I have heard

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	Valentin	III.A.54

Jan. 2/53

THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

UNITED STATES 2 CENTS POSTAL CARD

Jane Wade
Curt Valentin
32 E. 57 St
New York City

4 Jan 53

re recorded

15 Nov. — 1000.—

5 Dec. 1000.—

20 Dec. 500.—

— but nothing of Jan. 5
or afterwards
so could you "stop" that
check, and send me
another? please!

Hon. Giovanni Ponti
President
Biennale di Venezia
is the guy I have heard

329

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The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
	Valentin	III.A.54

14 Jan 53

Dear Curt
Jane. I have recorded

13 Nov. — 1000.—
5 Dec. 1000.—
20 Dec. 500.—

— but nothing of Jan. 5
or afterwards
so could you "stop" that
check, and send me
another? please!

Hon. Giovanni Ponti
President
Biennale di Venezia
is the guy I have heard

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	Valentin	III.A.54

from.

Perhaps they are waiting for me to send back the mobile I am to give them — before releasing the cash —?

for The International Gallery of Mod. Art, in Venice

I will take it to Budworth when I come in next week.

Love to all.

Sandy

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	Valentin	III.A.54

January 16, 1953

Mr. Alexander Calder
Painter Hill Road
Roxbury, Connecticut

Dear Sandy:

Our friends in Cincinnati for whom you made the small black mobile seem to be very pleased. However some of the paint came off, and they asked me what kind of black paint they should buy to touch it up. Please let me know.

Also they would like to know whether you gave the piece a title.

Sincerely yours,

CV:JW

328

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	Valentin	III.A.54

17 Jan 53

Dear Curt

I have just received the manuscript for the Bestiare, from Richard Wilbur (Hofer's friend)

It is very different from the Rats content — but looks very interesting — I hope to have some drawings in about a month + will show them to you then.

It looks like quite a lot of work for Wilbur so I think we should discuss what arrangements are to

330

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	Valentin	III.A.54

be made with him.

...—//—...

when you take in some more ## will you please send me some.

(I dont know where it all goes)

LOVE

Sandy

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The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
	Valentin	III.A.54

19 Feb. 53

Dear Curt Thank you for the check for Statement "Black Discs"

February 6, 1953

Dear Sandy,

The "Fish" mobile we sold to Fritz Bultman several years ago needs some attention and repairing.

The mobile is now here in the gallery, so next time you come to town would you please remember to take it along.

Sincerely,

Sandy Bultman's address in Woodstock I will write to him + advise you.

of Red" was I ordered yet but shown in

Maeght is showing that. But if you write him could I see what you say — before you send it. please. Sunday

332

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Andrue Benelton's address in Caracas + I will write him direct. Love

331
24 Jan 53 Sandy

Feb. 53

[illegible] ymph

[illegible]cement

I thought the "Black Discs" sold for 400— , in which case I should get 266.67 — 233.33

Arg. 266.67

and the "30" of Red" was 900 — 690 so I should get 600— $540

in Buenos Aires 690—

Andrue him 33.34 Arg

No adjustment $540 OK

As to the show in Germany — Maeght is running that. But if you write him could I see what you say — before you send it, please.

Sandy

333

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	Valentin	III.A.54

CALDER
PAINTER HILL ROAD
R. F. D. ROXBURY,
CONN., U. S. A.
TEL. & TEL. ROXBURY

UNITED STATES 2 CENTS FRANKLIN POSTAL CARD

THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Curt Valentin
32 E. 57 St.
New York City

Feb. 53

[illegible] mpn

[illegible]cement

I thought the "Black Discs" sold for 400— , in which case I should get 266.67 — 233.33

Orig. 266.67

and the "30" of Red" was 900 — 690 so I should get 600— $540

in Brown Gallery 690—

Use adjustment $540 OK

As to the show in Germany — Maeght is running that. But if you write him could I see what you say — before you send it, please.

Sandy

393

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	Valentin	III.A.54

19 Feb. 53

Dear Curt — Thank you for the check and the Statement

I thought the "Black Discs" sold for 400— , in which case I should get 266.67 — 233.33

and the "30" of Red" was 900 — 690 so I should get 600— $540

As to the show in Germany — Maeght is running that. But if you write him could I see what you say — before you send it, please.

Sandy

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The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
	Valentin	III.A.54

20 Feb 53

Dear Curt
Here is the list for
Walker Art C.
① is a Stabile
② is a mobile, but as
it is on the floor it
is more like a Stabile
③ one piece (no drawing)
was in a box drawings just
came back from Kunsthaus
Here are drawings of the
other 4. Would you ask them
to conserve the drawings. Need
Return them — (probably to
you.) Love to all
Sandy

February 20, 1953

Dear Sandy:

I thought we talked about all this: As I handle the accounts of my other artists, in case something is sold through another dealer 40 per cent is deducted. Margaret Brown paid me $690 for "30 of Red" since she gets 23 1/3 discount.

About the "Black Discs" I will have to ask the accountant because I do not understand the figure myself.

Best,

CV:JW

334

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The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
	Valentin	III.A.54

20 Feb 53

Dear Curt

Here is the list for Walker Art C.

① is a Stabile

② is a mobile, but as it rises from the floor it is somewhat like a Stabile

① is one piece (no drawing)

③ was in a box having just come back from Kuhl (so I made no drawing)

Here are drawings of the other 4. Would you ask them to conserve the drawings. And Return them — (probably to you.)

Love to all

Sandy

335

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Sent today to Budworth for Walker Art Centre

20 Feb. 53

(1)	Horns on Platform	1400-
(2)	Red Disc Black Lace	1950-
(3)	Snow Flurry Spring 51	2000-
(4)	Yellow W Orange Y	1800-
(5)	Elm	3000-
(6)	Y-object	2500-

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20 Feb 53

Dear Curt —

when that Wire Sculpture, from Springer, arrives, I wish to see it first before deciding what to do with it.

And don't forget that half the wood sculptures are mine — and I would like the "girl with Umbrella" (to keep) Love

Sandy

336

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	Valentin	III.A.54

March 2, 1953

Dear Sandy:

I need a piece for the Whitney. Mr. More wants something large which can stand on the floor. Any suggestions? (not like the "32 Disks").

Best,

CV:JW

337

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The Wall Street Journal
Monday, March 2, 1953

Art Note: Dangling Doodles Called Mobiles Find Abundant Buyers

* * *

Department Stores, Gift Shops Carry Them; Prices Range From $1.59 to $3,000 Each

BY FELICIA ANTHENELLI
Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

CHICAGO—Take a bit of wire or nylon thread, string some odd-shaped pieces of metal, wood or glass on it so that they strike a balance, suspend the whole from the ceiling and sit back and watch it dance delicately in the breeze.

It may sound and look crazy to you—but some people are making a business out of these art objects, called mobiles.

From these airborne doodles, pioneered by artist Alexander Calder 20 years ago, a whole new movement has evolved in modern art. Until recently, it was thought only high-brow lovers of abstract art saw anything in these bizarre objects. But art dealers have discovered there's quite a market for them. A small but steadily growing industry has sprung up.

No one knows exactly how many mobiles are sold each year, since many are made and marketed by individual artists.

Gift and Department Stores

But more and more of them can be seen dangling from ceilings of gift and department stores. Within the past year, several artists have set up companies which turn out mobiles on a production-line basis.

In Chicago, for example, 27-year-old designer Harry Hess was one of many artists making mobiles by hand. Last October, he rented a store-front, hired three men to stamp and cut out pieces of plastic, metal and wood, and eight girls to assemble them. Mobile Designs, Inc., now turns out almost 400 mobiles a day, and Mr. Hess says his sales are running around $10,000 a month.

In Detroit, Spacecraft Co. is concentrating on the children's market, turning out "space toys," as it calls them, at the rate of 1,000 a week. When the company went into business last August, they were turning out "less than 40 a week," says Malcolm Moran, president. Among its customers are Doubleday book shops and J. L. Hudson, a big Detroit department store. Hudson offers Spacecraft products in three different departments; instead of pure abstractions, it carries dangling, twirling Mother Goose characters.

Original Art

As original art creations, many mobiles bring a high price. Some, for instance, have been known to sell as high as $3,000 each.

More typical, however, are the mass-produced mobiles, which command much lower prices, of course. Mobile Designs offers seven basic designs, which run from $4 to $20 each. Spacecraft's "Cow and Moon" sells for $1.59; its "Nursery Rhymes in Motion" for $3.95.

Since the lower-price mobiles have appeared on the market, many department stores, such as Marshall Field and Carson Pirie Scott, both of Chicago, have carried them.

At the House of Baldwin, gift distributors in Chicago's Merchandise Mart, Miss Elizabeth K. Fort, who first introduced mobiles in the Mart two years ago, reports her most popular numbers retail between $25 and $45 each, although she sells some for as low as $6.

Designs and Themes

Mobiles are usually abstract in design, though some have a recognizable theme. The House of Baldwin, for instance, offers one model called "Sea Scape," which consists of a piece of buffed ebony driftwood, from which dangle three gilted natural preserved sea horses. It sells for $12.50.

Among the materials used in making mobiles are sheet metal, copper, aluminum, glass, vinylite plastics, various types of woods and wood veneers, and almost any type of wire or nylon thread.

"Crescents," a $4 mobile sold by Mobile Designs, is made up of different colored crescent-shaped vinyl forms, strung on nylon threads. Another model, "Tear Drops," selling at $10, uses copper wire and natural colored wood veneers. Varying sized "tear drops" dangle within metal frames.

Educational Mobiles

Some mobiles are educational, as well as artistic. The House of Baldwin offers one called "Sunmobile," made of pieces of wood, wire screening and metal wires, selling at $19. It shows the movements of the sun in relation to the earth, the big dipper and the North star. It's a big seller to schools and hospitals, reports Miss Fort.

Mobiles also are being used in advertising and sales displays. Hotels, restaurants and even business offices use them as decorations. One of the most famous is "Flight in Motion," by artist Calder, in Marshall Field's Cloud Room restaurant at Chicago's Midway Airport.

Bernard Reis thinks he should do something about this. 3/9 yes 3/12 can

337

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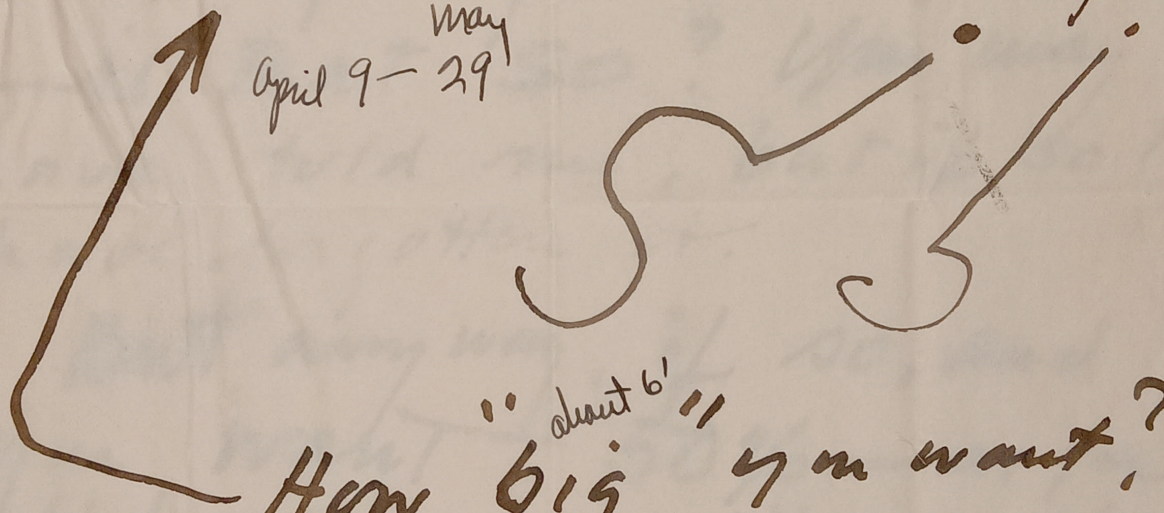
3 Mar '53

What do we do? —
Strangle Miss Anthenelli??

—————*—————

When is the Whitney?

April 9 – May 29



How big "about 6'" you want?

Dont act so silly with your
sacro illyac!

Love

Sandy

388

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	Valentin	III.A.54

15 Mar 53

Lieber Curtle

Somebody told me you had a show of mine scheduled at the Perls Gallery, Los Angeles — is that so? You may have told me, but if so I have forgotten it.

But anyway, if so, and you want 50% — as you did once — will you please raise the prices so that I do not suffer

Luv, wit kisses

Sandy

389

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March 16, 1953

Dear Sandy:

I sold the "Streetcar" for $2000 to the Art Institute of Chicago.

Do you know a man by the name of Marvin Safir who insists that he bought a mobile from me for $1800 on installment payments. However I have never sold a mobile to a man by this name.

Best,

CV:JW

340

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March 18, 1953

Dear Sandy:

I do not know exactly whether the Perls Gallery in Beverly Hills will make the exhibition, but we agreed I would get 40 per cent in case of sales through other dealers. I never talked about 50 per cent.

As for your letter of February nineteenth: the mobile "Black Discs" sold for $400 should have been credited to you for $266; therefore we have made a credit adjustment of $33.34 (the sale was originally credited incorrectly for $233).

However the mobile "30 of Red" was sold to the Margaret Brown Gallery for $690, and the amount of $540 originally credited to you is correct.

Sincerely yours,

GV:JW

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Have sent photo direct to Walker Art Center Minneapolis Minn.

18 Mar 53 — Sandy

342

Dear Sandy,

Here is some of it although I have not received any of it.

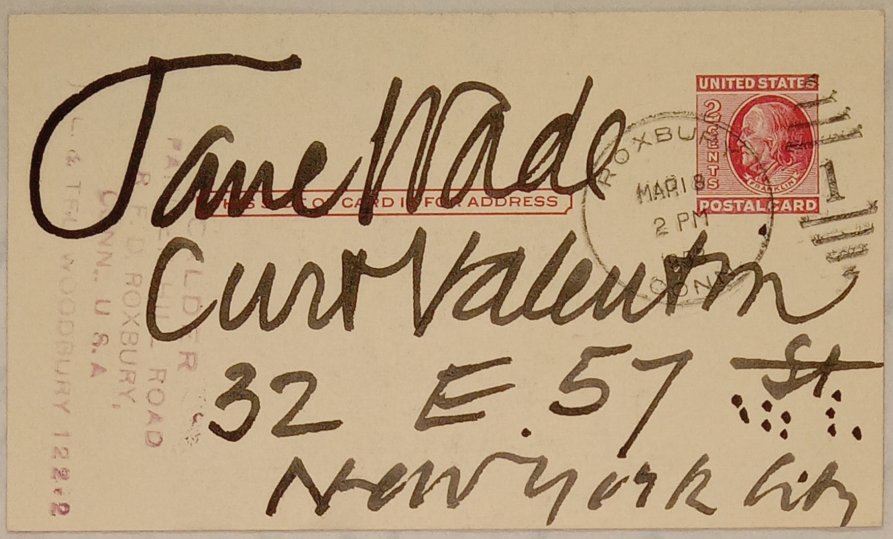
Best,

CV:JW
Enclosure
P.S. Thank you for sending the photo to Walker.

343

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	Valentin	III.A.54



Dear Sandy,

Here is some of it although I have not received any of it.

Best,

CV:JW
Enclosure
P.S. Thank you for sending the photo to Walker.

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The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
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March 19, 1953

Dear Sandy,

Here is some of it although I have not received any of it.

Best,

CV:JW
Enclosure
P.S. Thank you for sending the photo to Walker.

343

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March 20, 1953

Dear Sandy:

Enclosed is the copy of my letter of February twelfth and your answer.

Braunschweig used to be the most beautiful town and has the most famous Medieval Lion standing on the M arktplatz. Braunschweig is also famous for the Braunschweig Mettwurst. However Mr. Ralfs used to produce canned food before the War and now is a poor man, which is very regrettable but does not change the fact that he is an awful person.

I am more serious about this matter than it seems because I think we have to keep an eye on these traveling shows in Europe which certainly will not help your reputation. We will talk about it someday.

Sincerely yours,

CV:JW

P.S. Gerettet means saved.

344

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	Valentin	III.A.54

The lady in Ft. Dodge wrote she was sending me a photo so I could check on the balance of the object. However, it hasn't arrived and now I can't find her letter + have to address this to you. Will you please send her name + address to me ~~over~~

345

Apr. 53

...was ...then you ...awings, I presume it will be obvious to you that there are only some of the drawings etc - + lots of errors (I intend making a trip to the Zoo, very Zoon.)

But I wanted you to know the texts, + to get in touch with

Richard Wilbur

Sandoval, N.M.

345 The music. poem called

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CALDER
PAINTER HILL ROAD
R. F. D. ROXBURY,
CONN., U. S. A
TEL. & TEL. ROXBURY 122-2

THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

UNITED STATES 2 CENTS POSTAL CARD

1 Sandy

Apr. 53

Curt Valentin
32 E. 57 St.
New York City

I was
shown your
drawings,
in person. I presume it
will be obvious to you that
there are only some of the
drawings etc - + lots of
errors (I intend making
a trip to the Zoo, very
Zoon.)

But I wanted you to
know the texts, + to
get in touch with

Richard Wilbur
Sandoval, N.M.

345 The musig. poem called

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The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
	Valentin	III.A.54

1 Apr. 53

Liber Cuttchen

I was sorry not to show you the texts + drawings, in person. I presume it will be obvious to you that there are only some of the drawings: etc - + lots of errors (I intend making a trip to the Zoo, very Zoon.)

But I wanted you to know the texts, + to get in touch with

Richard Wilbur

Sandoval, N.M.

345 The music. poem called

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	Valentin	III.A.54

"Beasts" is his. He teaches at Harvard, and is a friend of Hofer, recommended by him, but is off for a year on a Guggenheim.

I don't know what financial arrangement you propose to make with him — but it seems like quite a lot of work. A year ago, or so, I sent him 200— as his wife had been ill, and he asked me if you could make some sort of advance — and you were in Europe.

This is long, but you are Cunt — love —

Sandy

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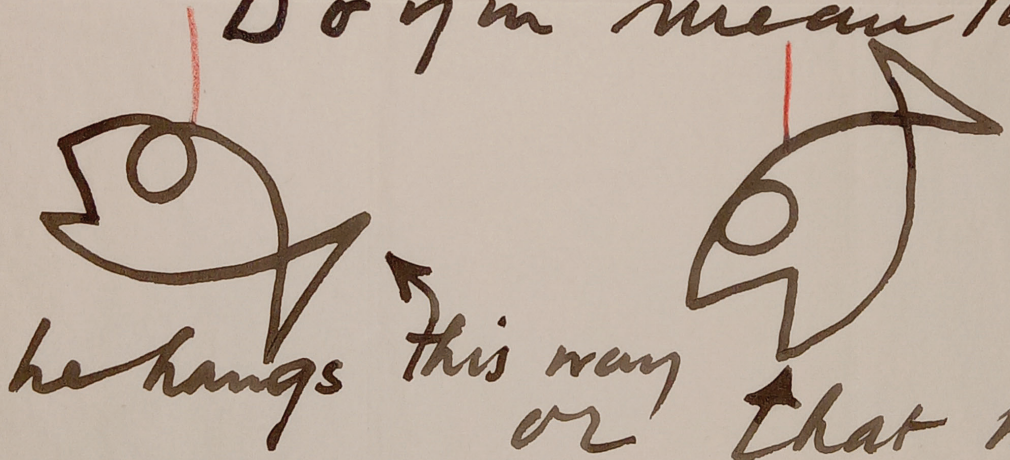
The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
	Valentin	III.A.54

Rox Bury
8 Apr. 53

Dear Mrs. Bultman

I thought the desired repairs were just putting back some bits of glass — which I was sure you would be able to do.

Do you mean that



he hangs this way or that way?

May I suggest that you cut the cord off and then, holding fish on one finger

347

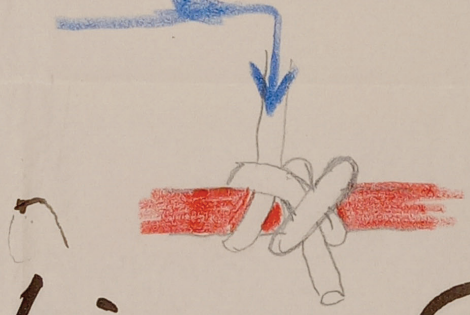
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	Valentin	III.A.54

2.



you find the point at which the cord should go up



then tie a clove hitch plus half-hitch (you can do this from the short end with a little concentration)

Then put on some paint to stick the knot securely, and smear

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it up the cord
a bit

If you are still
stymied, please let
me know

Cordially
A. Calder

347(p.3)

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	Valentin	III.A.54

13 Apl. 53

Dear Curt

I have been wondering what to do about your having things of mine next year, when we are away. Jimmy + Tania Stern will be in the house — but I can't ask them to send things to N.Y. + receive them, etc etc

I intend maintaining the status quo up here — as far as objects — for if things come + go

348

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	Valentin	III.A.54

I won't have any idea what is left here — and I think it best to make a rule that nothing shall be removed.

Will you think about it, please.

Mr. Oldenberg and his friends came yesterday and we had a very pleasant visit. I showed him the "New Realist" (with stapling bars) and he considered it — and will let me or you know about it. I would make a new one, all black + white because the pink background is rather awful. (Don't tell him!) Sandy

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	Valentin	III.A.54

liber Curtchen — 16 Apr 53
Thanks for your note.
Why don't they send me
even a catalogue? (perhaps
there is none) Will you
make sure that they send
my sketches to L.A.

April 15, 1953

Dear Sandy,

I am sorry I forgot to tell you that I saw your exhibition at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis. It is a beautiful exhibition and very well installed. The exhibition is going on to the Perls Gallery in Beverly Hills from Minneapolis.

Next time you come to New York, we will talk about what we should do in your absence. I should probably come up before you leave, within the next four weeks or so. Maybe you can give me a key to your studio in case we are in urgent need of an object for an exhibition, and give me the permission to remove things from the studio.

Perls in Beverly Hills would like to have a drawing for a poster. Enclosed is a poster of one of his last exhibitions and text for your portfolio; maybe you could make a drawing for it. Would you please airmail whatever you do to the Frank Perls Gallery, 350 North Camden Drive, Beverly Hills, California. Many thanks.

Sincerely yours,

CV:JW
Enclosures

I wish you would come
very soon — so that we
can talk about the Book —
and give some arrangement

349

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	Valentin	III.A.54

Liebe Curtchen 16 Apr 53

Thanks for your note. Why don't They send me even a catalogue? (perhaps there is none) — Will you make sure that They send my sketches to L.A.

You could always get a key at a neighbors, if The Storms weren't here — and I would be willing that you come + take something — but how the hell would you get here? — seeing that you find it very difficult when we are here.

I wish you would come very soon — so that we can talk about the BOOK — and give some arrangement

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for Richard Wilbur

and perhaps I could finish the drawings before we sail. (Don't let those Boobs fold up the drawings, this time!) Perhaps! that Blondie

again.

Perls

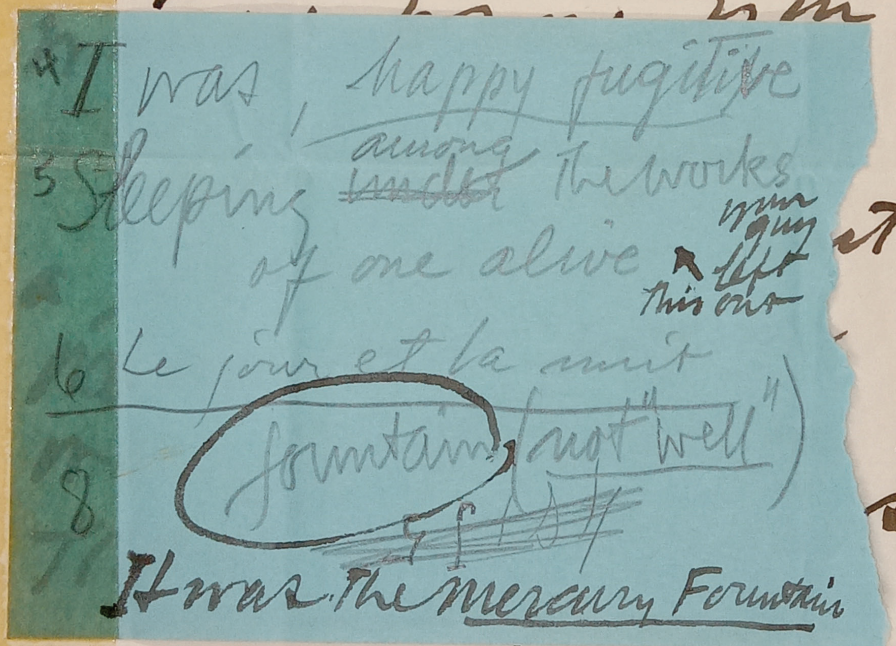
t if its

there

the

see

this sheet.



Shall it make one McMillan? ask them to tell me exact dimensions + color or no-color.

Love - Sandy

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for Richard Wilbur
and perhaps I could
finish the drawings
before we sail. (Don't
let those Boobs fold up
the drawings, this time!)
Perhaps that Blondie
would bring you again.
Did you send Perls
forward? — but if its
Lassus's poem there
are 2 errors in the
translation ... see
this sheet.

Shall it make one
McMillan? ask them
to tell me exact dimensions
+ color or no-color.

Love - Sandy

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	Valentin	III.A.54

April 30, 1953

Dear Sandy,

Apparently Maeght refused to leave the mobile with Mr. Springer which he wanted to exchange for the wire piece. So Mr. Springer returned the mobile to Paris, it seems.

Best,

CV:JW

151

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May 4, 1953

Dear Sandy,

"Sumac II" has been sold for $1350 to Frederick Seacrest in Lincoln, Nebraska, and we have credited your account with two-thirds.

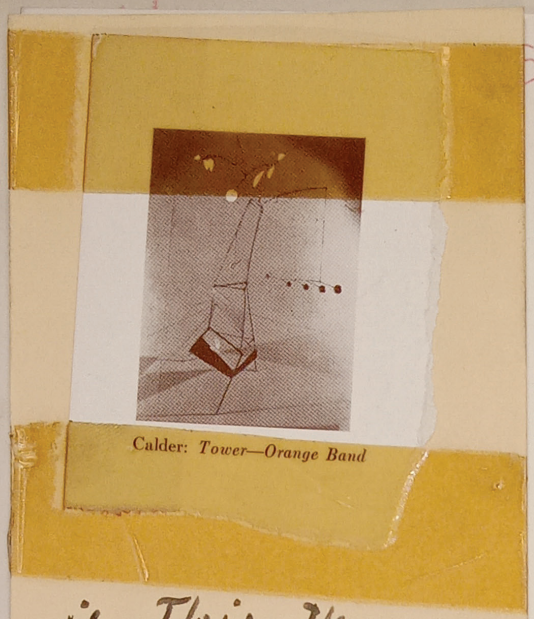
Sincerely yours,

CV:JW

352

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is This the way it was shown?

Sandy

353

Vle May 53

Dale

hate to

– but dont

that the

sculpture both

bin

Totem Pole (3 men)

now belongs to me

(as settled in our

last visit)

Many excuses,

& much love

Sandy

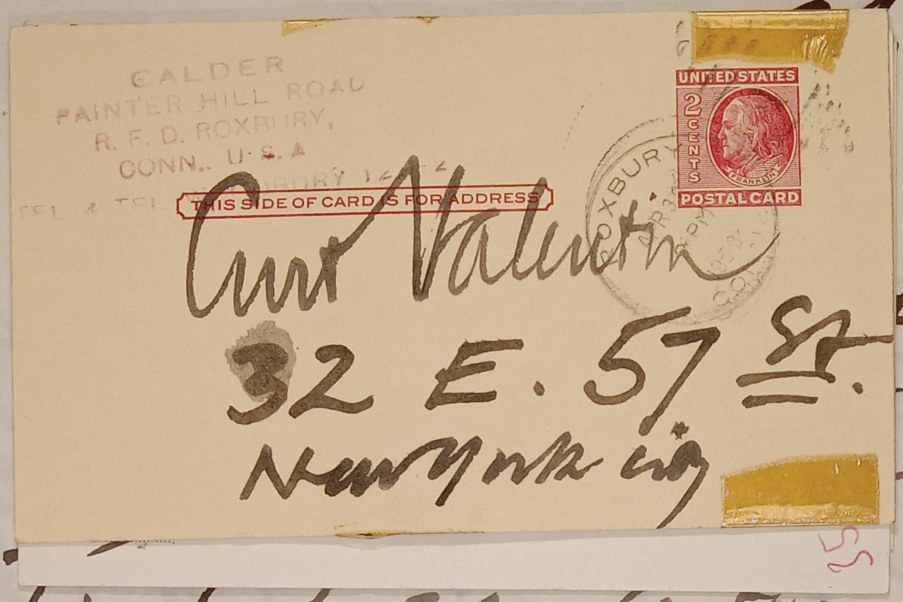
356 What's the matter with Jane?

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The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection: Valentin	Series.Folder: III.A.54

Calder

May 53



e to
dent
The
bath

Wood sculpture

Jim Berlin

Totem Pole (3 men)

now belongs to me

(as settled in our last visit)

Many excuses,

& much love

Sandy

What's the matter with Jane?

356

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The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
	Valentin	III.A.54

Calder



26 May 53

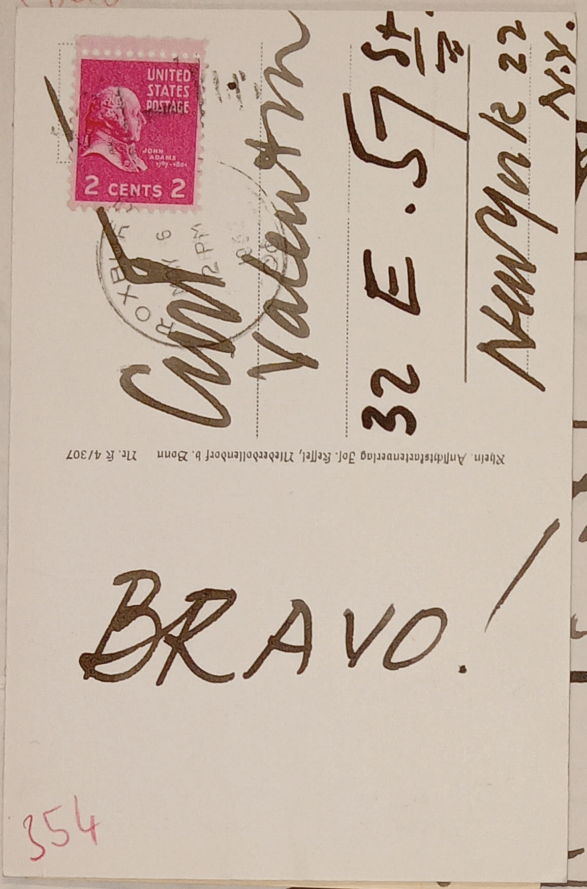
tle
hate to
but dont
hat the
lpture both
in
Pole (3 men)
now belongs to me
(as settled in our
last visit)
many excuses,
+ much love
Sandy

356 What's the matter with Jane?

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The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
	Valentin	III.A.54

Calder



354

BRAVO.

Ve May 53

tle

hate to

but dont

hat the

ulpture back

bin

Pole (3 men)

now belongs to me

(as settled in our

last visit)

many excuses,

+ much love

Sandy

356 What's the matter with Jane?

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The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
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Calder

Please save
"3 man totem-pole"
for me. + I will
pick it up sometime to
Sandy

355

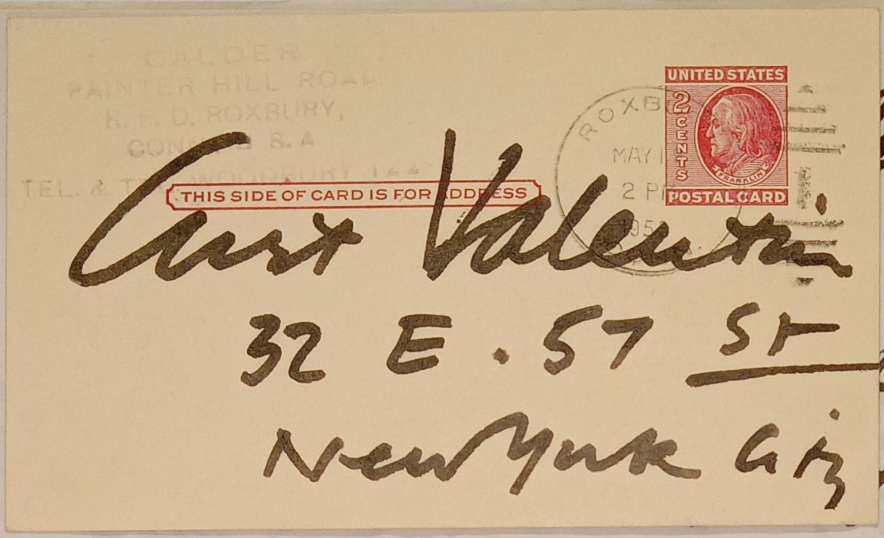
[illegible] May 53

[illegible] dont
[illegible] the
wood sculpture ~~back~~
of Jim Berlin
Totem Pole (3 men)
now belongs to me
(as settled in our
last visit)
Many excuses,
+ much love
Sandy

356 What's the matter with Jean?

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The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
	Valentin	III.A.54



May 53

Curt Valentin
32 E. 57 St
New York City

Glad to
dont
forget that the
wood sculpture
with
of Jim Berlin
Totem Pole (3 men)
now belongs to me
(as settled in our
last visit)
Many excuses,
& much love
Sandy

What's the matter with you?

356

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The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
	Valentin	III.A.54

Calder

7th May 53

Dear Curtle

I hate to visit — but dont forget that the wood sculpture ~~bein~~ of Jim Berlin

Totem Pole (3 men)

now belongs to me

(as settled in our last visit)

Many excuses,

& much love

Sandy

356 What's the matter with Jane?

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The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
	Valentin	III.A.54

Calder

Wants. The matter with Jane? — is it too delicate to recount?

—

I dont remember you telling me about the object for children to climb on — but if you sent Mrs. Draper I guess you get something out of it. But I haven't heard from her since

CV:JW

557

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The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
	Valentin	III.A.54

June 11, 1953

Dear Sandy,

My nephew was delighted with the mobile, and he will write you. I am delighted with mine too, but I still like the red "Sumac" here in the gallery better. Could we make an exchagge? I shall give you the money I owe you for the two pieces in cash someday; the transaction will not appear on the account. $600

I did not forget about Wilbur. I still do not seem to be able to find the right way to do the book. I shall send both the drawings and the text and maybe you can work on it over the summer, and we can talk about it when I come to Aix.

I am sorry I could not come up to see you before I leave, but I shall see you in Aix.

Sincerely yours,

CV:JW

557