

December 2, 1981



Dear Tony,

*Bennington*  
Well last night was our ~~big~~ *first* opening and I really wished you could have been there. Toward the end I got waves of doubts about our choices--seemed like we left in too many so-so pix, but in the end Dan and I were both pleased. Nothing got left in unless one of us loved it or else it was obligatory (Elaine Summers or Aileen Passloff, both of whom were underrepresented ~~but all~~ *because* their photos were a bit dull). Dan seemed quite expert to me at hanging the show. We did have our differences of course, but I don't know much about gallery language. I had envisioned the pictures to be in clusters or at least to have certain pairs vertically arranged, but ~~they~~ Dan hung almost all of them in rows. I guess *they're* easier to see that way. Also my doubts went back to the *choice of pictures*: Peter's were the first batch we chose so we were very discriminating, but when it came to choosing Gieses (geese?) we ~~allowed in more of them~~. The combination turns out great because Peter's are stark and well composed and Al's are full of motion and more casual. Terry's were more like Peter's and McElroy's were again ~~different--more voluptuous almost~~ *luminous*. We also got one photo by Bob Morris--of Robert Huot in his War costume--two by Hans Namuth--one of Site and one of Leadville--and one of Oldenburg's Washes by Costenadea or somebody. 146 ~~as~~ *is all as* counted in the catalog but we pulled two at the last minute and one of them we forgot to put in the catalog. Other than those mistakes, Dan did an AMAZING job of gathering the material and making choices (most choices were collaborative but those last ones he had to do on his own). He alienated only a few people on the way--Barbara Moore for instance--and made many friends (good for his own career I'm sure but I don't mind since he had so much energy about the whole thing.) Dan Froot is working on making a master tape still--tonight!--and we're showing the tapes three days a week. Michael and Meg were here a few times in November to complete the edits. Tony, the money's been pouring out. Toward video, toward frames, and the printing ~~will~~ will come in at just under 5 gs later this month. I was disappointed that the catalog wasn't ready for the show.

The NY show opens Jan 12 and will have more items: some programs and posters and sound tapes that will be pumped in on microphones like tour guides. (Littman's idea and Dan liked it and I thought why not go with the tackiest.) Also two ~~more~~ *more* videotapes, these transferred from film: Bob Whitman's Flower and Oldenburg's Capture the Flag (or whatever it's called) Joan Blair shot a tape of me interviewing Yvonne and it's good and clear. The other edits look good too. Dan and I made Michael and Meg re-edit the Johan Herbert McDowell, and the last minute ~~we omitted~~ *we omitted* it from the show. (Havent told them yet)

The Art Div was helpful in the end, Marge Newton begrudgingly so and Brower, who's Secretary (after a long battle Jane had with the Administration) more willingly so. All the art and dance people showed up last night, but not Jow Murphy or Vanderpol, I realize now



that the way to get the big shots is to write a hand-written invitation. But I'm pleased cause the show looks great and I learned a lot about a different way to give a show. (I was putting down vinyl letters and re-typing labels till 10 to 6). I love walking by VAPA and seeing the photos through the window of Usdan. I want to spend a little time in there every day till it closes. The surprising thing, maybe, is that I still love those photos and those people. Tony, I hope you can make it here before the NY show closes. I don't even know when that'll be--3rd or 4th week in Feb maybe. *Will let you know*

So we're not done yet. Dan has those other items to curate and we have publicity to do. Did I mention that N.Y. Community Trust gave us \$2,500 just for NY publicity? We want to put posters on the busses, but we may be too late for that. The reconstruction series at St. Mark's is now scheduled for April 15-19. MJ Becker, a dance student here, will be working with Cynthia Hedstrom over NRT and will help set it up. The people who will <sup>perform</sup> something are Phil Corner, Simone Forti, Deborah Hay, Steve Paxton, Yvonne, Carolee, Elaine Samuels. Aileen Cassloff is working on a 1959 piece of Jimmy Waring's and Cheryl Niederman might do Dewhorse if they find the tape. Remy will do Meditations. The definite Nds are from Trisha, David Gordon, Alex Hay, Sally Gross, Ruth Emerson and Bob Morris. No definite word yet from Rauschenberg or Lucinda.

And on the home front: <sup>refers to quality rather than quantity</sup> (all) the kids are excited about taking your courses. Some want video with you and some want other stagings. I don't know if they've been signing up with Joel or what. I know that Dave has been telling them that they can't take your video tutorial unless they've taken his A-V course first. Is this true? I've told some of them to write to you. Lisa Nelson came to do a video workshop and fired them up about that. (though this bunch doesn't seem so fiery to me, that's partly why I need a break) It looks good for having Lisa replace me for next year. She wants to do it--wants a steady salary after all this vagabonding--and the division looks supportive, although Jack and Barbara keep mentioning names of ~~these~~ perfectly mediocre people like Jim Tyler.

Tony PLEASE write and say when you're coming back. I've heard from everybody (i/e/ Steve Paxton and Sally Banes) that you're healthy and happy in ruddy England. So Don't enjoy it too much, cause you're needed Here. I'll be here till the 21st and then at my NY address (190 Sixth Ave., NY NY 10013), Carol Haerer is assuming you won't need the Bedford St. apartment. They're going to Egypt in February.

I guess Joel Stoehr worked out ok. He didn't do well by Shauna, but he's doing a lot on "Alice" I guess (Anita Karl's big number of the term)

There's more to tell you for sure, but I'm pretty exhausted ~~from~~ from getting the show up. I'm really sad that you couldn't be here to do it with me. I'm also disappointed that Lond=Paris tour didn't work out. A breakdown of communication between you and Dan I guess. The show will probably travel to Bard College, and a few places in the midwest.

*SORRY I DIDN'T WRITE EARLIER. DIDN'T HAVE A  
FREE MINUTE*  
*Love Mary*