May 27, 53

Dear Carlotta,

I was delighted to receive your letter today. Needless to say, I have been thinking of you a great deal lately. Yesterday, when your photos arrived, I spent the morning going over your work with Pete making a tentative selection for the show. Pete, who is always throwing suppositions, was almost lost for words — "What print quality!" "What sensuality!", "I tell you, Carlotta, this girl is great!" "This will be a terrific show!" etc., etc. There was scarcely a photograph he didn’t like but he decided (and I agreed) to concentrate on your experimental work and your nature photographs, which are strong in abstract design quality. This is your most original work. You may be interested
to know that when he saw your Frenchman photos he said "There are better than Jackolin - greater sensitivity and poeticism. Jackolin is only interested in decadence because he'srotten himself." He doesn't want to use any of this series (mostly I think because of his nature dislikes for Jackolin) (Jackolin - how do you spell it? - I like the one of the broken window, especially and will try to include it.

I plan to use all 5 of the photo's you could not include because of the rejection show - they are some of my favorites especially the one you call "Woven Light" if it has the wonderful qualities of primitive art.

Among the glossies - your new experiment with the glass mosaics perfect. The effect you sent is brilliant - I hope you'll have time to do more with them before July 1. I like the one of dried palm fronds also.

I will wait until I receive your other prints before I make a final selection. I do want to crowd the show. It will be difficult to know what to leave out.
Pallack said that he would prefer not to show any of your fine portrait work best would include the one of Moholy-Nagy. (An interesting remark he made was - "if it weren't for the terrific creative work, these (straight) photo's would make a wonderful show.")

Incidentally - Doris Coonrod has offered to help put up the show. I will try to use her. I am very anxious that the arrangements of the show be as good as possible. I don't see how - with your photos - it can be anything but spotty. Doris will add another hand (better than one) and also knows you and your work. She looks fine - is happy with her job - and is very much pleased that you are having a show here.

Pete will return in mid August at which time he will collect 4-6 prints for purchase at $25.00 each. He thinks...
you should get no less for your work. He wants 6 — it depends on the condition of his budget.

a neighbor of mine in Park Forest is Dick Star — a feature writer for Look.

He is interested in a story about you and your work, and I will show him your poster and give him one release to your statement next week. (He's away on a story now)

Ken Shoemaker, head of the art dept at Univ of Chicago, Navy Pier, is art critic for the Chicago Daily News. I know him quite well (he offered me a job while I was at T.S.C.W.) I feel sure he will give you a good write up. I will try to get you copies of all your reviews.

I enclose a carbon of my rewrite of your statement — Pete asked me to make it shorter. I tried to use your own words as much as possible — Pete changed the last sentence. If you would like to make some further changes I will be glad to follow them. I was reluctant to leave out your last paragraph — dealing with your work in relation to teaching. It will make your full statement available to
writes. (They will be referred to me in Pallasch's absence)

I'm awfully sorry to hear of the terrible load you have had to carry. It is told me something of it when he stopped in Chicago a while back. It is just not right. The legislators must be carefully studied — it can only result in lowering the quality of Texas colleges. What makes me maddest is that I believe that the education of Texas could be bigger and better if only given a chance. You who stay are martyrs. If it were not for the four young women you have as students, and being inspired by their enthusiasm and rewarded by their eagerness to learn, I wouldn't understand your staying on.

As bad as things are, I must admit that I miss many things about Denver and teaching.
Len's leave of absence will certainly make it harder for all of you. I am very glad for his sake — it will be a wonderful change for him. He should come back refreshed and better able to cope with the difficult job of keeping the department and its standards intact.

How is Ruth Steidinger? I have been worried about her, both because of the tremendous load she has had to carry and her strained relations with the men. When I saw her last summer, I was afraid that she would not be able to stand much more of it. If she left it would be a great loss to T.S.C.W.

I hope you can get to Chicago to see your show. If you do, plan to stay with us. We have plenty of room and hope you can pay us a good long visit. My vacation comes the last 2 weeks of July and Eriba and the children may come a couple of weeks earlier. Any time in August or early September would be fine.

We are all well and are enjoying the good weather and pleasant surroundings in Kent Forest. My best regards to all in art dept.

Sincerely, Alan

Your cats are charming.