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*Archives of American Art*

## **Lilian Swann Saarinen's Diary, 1935-1936 October**

Extracted on Apr-19-2024 04:07:27

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~~[[/del]] SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 1936 ~~[[/del]]~~  
4th Day 362 Days to come  
Cont~~

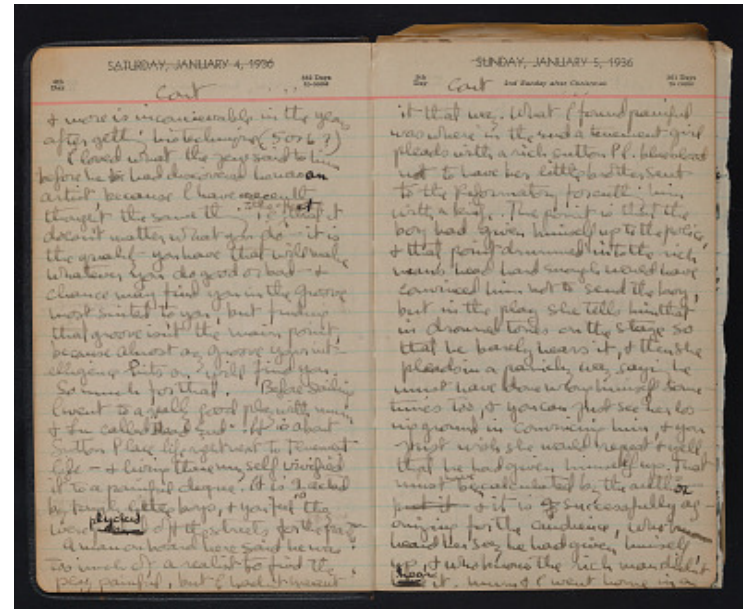
& more is inconceivable in the years after getting his technique (5 or 6?)

I loved what the Jew said to him before he ~~[[/del]] te~~  
~~[[/del]] had discovered he was an artist, because I have~~  
secretly thought the same thing, i.e. to the effect that it doesn't matter  
what you do - it is the quality you have that will make whatever you do  
good or bad - & chance may find you in the groove most suited to you,  
but finding that groove isn't the main point, because almost any groove  
your intelligence hits on will find you. So much for that. Before sailing I  
went to a really good play with mum & Lu called "Dead End". It is about  
Sutton Place life right next to tenement life - & living there myself vivified  
it to a painful degree. It is 9/10 acted by tough little boys, & you feel they  
were ~~[[/del]] picked~~ plucked off the streets for the parts.

A man on board here said he was too much of a realist to find the play  
painful, but I hadn't meant

~~[[/del]] SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 1936 ~~[[/del]]~~  
5th Day 2nd Sunday after Christmas 361 Days to come  
Cont~~

it that way. What I found painful was where in the end a tenement girl  
pleads with a rich Sutton Pl. blueblood not to have her little brother sent  
to the Reformatory for cutting him with a knife. The point is that the boy  
had given himself up to the police, & that point drummed into the rich  
man's head hard enough would have convinced him not to send the boy,  
but in the play she tells him that in drowned tones on the stage so that  
he barely hears it, & then she pleads in a panicky way saying he must  
have done wrong himself sometimes too, & you can just see her losing  
ground in convincing him, & you just wish she would repeat & yell that  
he had given himself up. That must have been calculated by the author -  
~~[[/del]] put it ~~[[/del]] & it is ~~[[/del]] g~~~~  
~~[[/del]] successfully agonizing for the audience, who~~  
~~[[/del]] knows ~~[[/del]] heard her say he had given~~~~  
himself up, & who knows the rich man didn't ~~[[/del]] the~~  
~~[[/del]] hear it. Mum & I went home in a~~~~



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