



Smithsonian Institution

Archives of American Art

Lilian Swann Saarinen's Diary, 1935-1936 October

Extracted on Mar-28-2024 07:31:22

The Smithsonian Institution thanks all digital volunteers that transcribed and reviewed this material. Your work enriches Smithsonian collections, making them available to anyone with an interest in using them.

The Smithsonian Institution (the "Smithsonian") provides the content on this website (transcription.si.edu), other Smithsonian websites, and third-party sites on which it maintains a presence ("SI Websites") in support of its mission for the "increase and diffusion of knowledge." The Smithsonian invites visitors to use its online content for personal, educational and other non-commercial purposes. By using this website, you accept and agree to abide by the [following terms](#).

- If sharing the material in personal and educational contexts, please cite the Archives of American Art as source of the content and the project title as provided at the top of the document. Include the accession number or collection name; when possible, link to the Archives of American Art website.
- If you wish to use this material in a for-profit publication, exhibition, or online project, please contact Archives of American Art or transcribe@si.edu

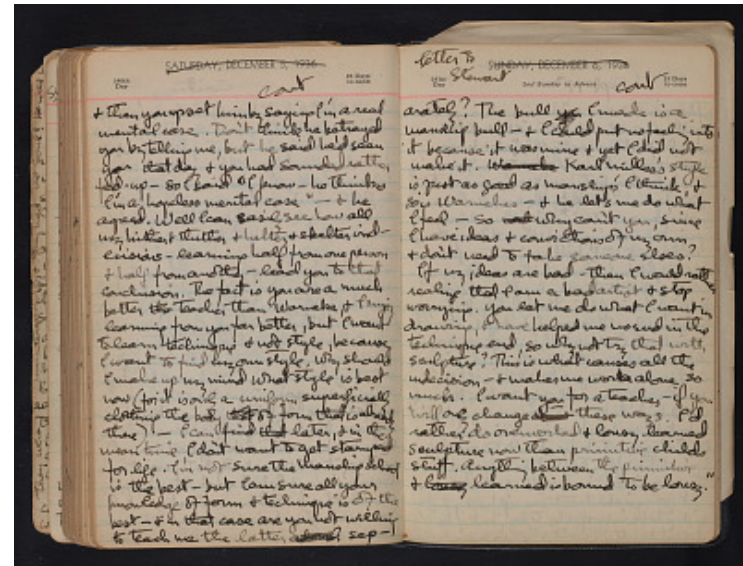
For more information on this project and related material, contact the Archives of American Art. [See this project](#) and other collections in the Smithsonian Transcription Center.

~~SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1936~~
340th Day 26 Days to come
cont

& then you upset him by saying I'm a real mental case. Don't think he betrayed you by telling me, but he said he'd seen you that day & you had sounded rather fed-up - so I said "I know - he thinks I'm a hopeless mental case" - & he agreed. Well I can easily see how all my hither & thither & skelter indecisions - learning half from one person & half from another - lead you to that conclusion. The fact is you are a much better ~~th~~ teacher than Warneke, & I enjoy learning from you far better, but I want to learn technique & not style, because I want to find my own style, because I want to find my own style. Why should I make up my mind what style is best now (for it is only a uniform superficially clothing the body) ~~that~~ of form that is already there) - I can find that later, & in the mean time I don't want to get stamped for life. I'm not sure the Manship school is the best - but I am sure all your knowledge of form & technique is of the best - & in that case are you not willing to teach me the latter ~~alone?~~ separately?

letter to Stewart
~~SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1936~~
341st Day 2nd Sunday in Advent
25 Days to come
cont

The bull ~~you~~ I made is a Manship bull - & I could put no feeling into it because it was mine & yet I did not make it. ~~Warneke~~ Karl Milles's style is just as good as Manship's I think, & so is Warneke's - & he lets me do what I feel - so ~~wor~~ why can't you, since I have ideas & convictions of my own & don't need to take someone else's? If my ideas are bad - then I would rather realize that I am a bad artist & stop worrying. You let me do what I want in drawing, & have helped me no end in the technique end, so why not try that with sculpture? This is what causes all the indecision - & makes me work alone so much. I want you for a teacher - if you will only change ~~about~~ these ways. I'd rather do overworked & lousy learned sculpture now than primitive child's stuff. Anything between the primitive & ~~lousy~~ learned is bound to be lousy."



Lilian Swann Saarinen's Diary, 1935-1936 October
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Extracted Mar-28-2024 07:31:22



Smithsonian Institution

Archives of American Art

The mission of the Smithsonian is the increase and diffusion of knowledge - shaping the future by preserving our heritage, discovering new knowledge, and sharing our resources with the world. Founded in 1846, the Smithsonian is the world's largest museum and research complex, consisting of 19 museums and galleries, the National Zoological Park, and nine research facilities. Become an active part of our mission through the Transcription Center. Together, we are discovering secrets hidden deep inside our collections that illuminate our history and our world.

Join us!

The Transcription Center: <https://transcription.si.edu>

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SmithsonianTranscriptionCenter>

On Twitter: [@TranscribeSI](https://twitter.com/TranscribeSI)

Connect with the Smithsonian

Smithsonian Institution: www.si.edu

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Smithsonian>

On Twitter: [@smithsonian](https://twitter.com/smithsonian)