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Archives of American Art

Reuben Tam Diary (Loose Pages), 1939

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October 8, 1939

I had no intention of writing - I was occupied with my fair sonnets - to be sent to Poetry Magazine. The title: 4 Poems ~~from~~ from Hawaiian Island ~~from~~ - "By The Sea," "House With Background," "Night for the Islander" and ~~from~~ "Winds of a Native Artist" ~~from~~ "Arist" ~~from~~ at the Headland"

I shall give up my piano lessons, of which I've had two. There is no time! I threaten to quit teaching. I must paint. write. do prints. Explore the island, What was it Jack London said - "Dig has moved more mountains than faith could ever hope to." His was a full life. (Read "Sailor on Horseback last month."

The sense of pride over satisfactory accomplishment was mine again this week. Yesterday I completed "Morning at the End of an Era" - & felt perhaps as happy as when "Evening at a Headland" was completed. Why the title of "At the end - etc-" for a moment I thought I had caught the tragic emotion of a primitive landscape rising in the face ~~of~~ the "inglorious" cities falling."

Today I completed my first lithograph "Northeast Kauai" - a memory of the long hike to the red and black coast beyond Kealia.

It would be best for me to remain on Kauai at least another year - if I am to spend my time in painting. Minute for minute, I'd have more free time - here - after school hours.

~~Ilmgard~~ - Alice - Rose - I have need of such as these when a painting is done; then the glow of accomplishment makes one feel the part of the young man out for the gay life of romance.

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