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Archives of American Art

Celebrating 175: Yasuo Kuniyoshi, Correspondence, Artists for Victory, 1942-1944

Extracted on Apr-24-2024 06:13:35

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JOHN TAYLOR ARMS
"Mill Stones"
Greenfield Hill
Fairfield, Conn.

Dear Yasuo Kuniyoshi

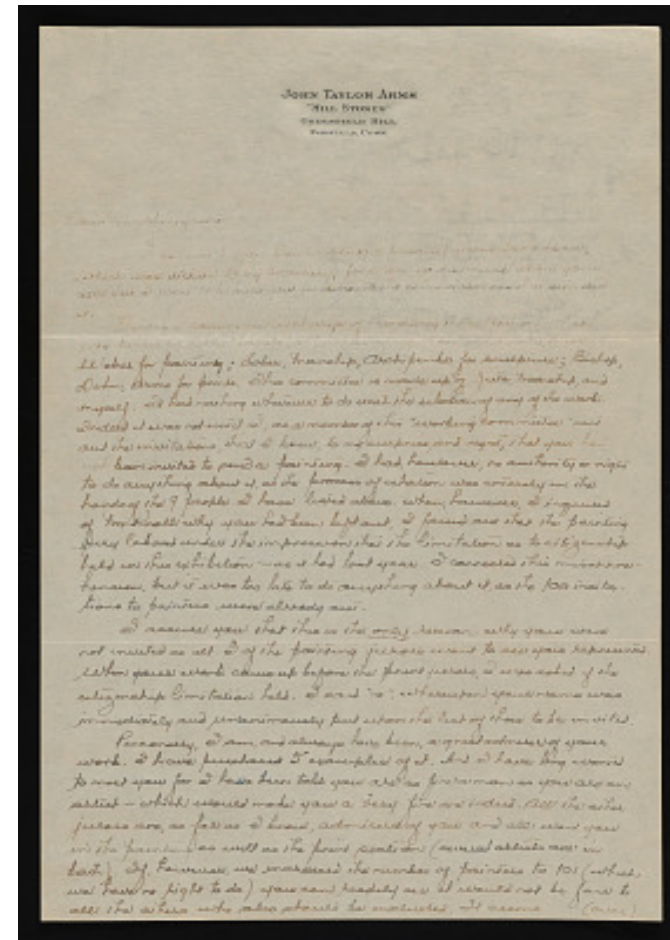
I cannot refrain from adding a personal word to the above, which was dictated to my secretary, for I am so distressed about your case that I want to be sure you understand the circumstances that attended it.

There is a committee in charge of handling the exhibitions which was picked by three "panels" for placing of exhibitions "Biddle, Speicher, Weber for painting; Lober, Manship, Archipenko for sculpture; Bishop, Dehn, Arms for prints. This committee is made up of Jutta, Manship, and myself. I had nothing whatever to do with the selection of any of the works. Indeed I was not sent I, as a member of this "working committee" sent out the invitations, that I knew, to my surprise and regret, that you had not been invited to send a painting. I had, however, no authority or right to do anything about it, as the process of selection was entirely in the hands of the 9 people I have listed above. When, however, I inquired of Mr Kroll why you had been left out, I found out that the painting jury labored under this impression that the limitation as to citizenship held in this exhibition - as it had last year. I corrected this misapprehension, but it was too late to do anything about it, as the 100 invitations to painters were already out.

I assure you that this is the only reason why you were not invited as all 3 of the painting jurors want to see you represented. When your works come up before the print jurors, I was asked if the citizenship limitations held. I said "no", wherever your name was immediately and unanimously put upon the list of these to be invited.

Personally, I am, and always have been, a great admirer of your work. I have purchased 5 examples of it. And I have long wanted to meet you for I have been told you are as fine a man as you are an artist-which would make you a very fine one indeed. All of the other jurors are, as far as I know, admired of you and all want you in the painting as well as the print section (several artists are in both). If, however, we increased the number of painters to 101 (which we have no right to do) you can readily see it would not be fair to all the others who also should be included. It seems

(over)



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