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1950

*Jay*  
**Lurye**  
PRESENTS

*Lurye*

1021 EAST SIXTH STREET • DULUTH 5, MINNESOTA

June 6, 1947

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt  
c/o W. Colston Leigh, Inc.  
521 Fifth Avenue  
New York City 17, New York

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

It has taken a while to get most of the "Afterwards" details taken care of, but now that everything seems pretty much under control I find myself with a few leisurely moments---which I am promptly using to drop you a few lines of congratulations and thanks.

"Congratulations" because of the outstanding message and impression which you left with the people of this area. Your words to the Press, on the Radio, and to the thousands of men and women who heard you that night at the Armory contained the answers and inspiration which we in this area have long needed. To borrow a Hollywood adjective, let me say "It was terrific".

"Thanks" because the wonderful memories that Duluthians have of your visit are naturally a reflection upon the young man who sponsored your appearance---and I could not be more pleased than I am to have had you as Number One on what I hope will be a long list of future artists and lecturers to visit Duluth under my sponsorship. I thank you, not only for "a job well done", but for your kindnesses and generousities to the Press and Radio folks---for you realize, I am sure, how important it is in work of this kind to have them "with you".

I am very grateful to you for the many considerations which you gave to make your entire visit to Duluth such an eventful one. We were extremely pleased to have both you and Miss Thompson as our guests, and we are hopeful that the future may perhaps see a continuance of this pleasant association.

Sincerely

*Jay Lurye*  
JAY A. LURYE

*JAL*

JAL:ms

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*Conte Massimo Tito della Torre di Lusanna*

VIA AURELIANA

73 ROME

LUSANNA

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This is the gentleman  
who came in to see  
Mrs. Roosevelt on 12/11  
at 10:30

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1/11/47

February

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

I heard that the sculptor, who is on his way over from England, to consult you on whether the statue of your late beloved husband, should be depicted as standing or sitting

I hope you will not think me bold in hoping that you will decide to have him in an upright position, because he stood for everything that was upright and gave one the feeling when he stood for a principle all would be well.

His loss has been so felt, I hope that the monument of his statue will help our foreign relations to be for the future welfare of the world.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. A. Litvich  
37 Wimped Ave  
Yonkers 4, N.Y.

JOSEPH LUYBER  
GALLERIES  
INCORPORATED

AGENTS FOR CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS

HOTEL BREVOORT  
5th Ave. at 8th Street  
New York, N. Y.

May 29th  
1947

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt  
29 Washington Square  
New York City

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

In 1938, I had the privilege of meeting you and your great husband at the White House, through Christine Sadler of the Washington Post. That to me was the most significant moment of my lifetime. However, had I never had the experience of being in your presence, I would be writing this letter regardless. It is important to me that you, who stands for all that I believe in, be acquainted with my efforts to carry on some of the work which Mr. Roosevelt initiated in my own field of art, and which you abetted with such vigor and sincerity.

During the time when the Arts Projects were revitalizing the entire spirit of American art, I was in a position, as manager of the "Art Digest", to observe at close hand how much it meant to the individual artist as well as to the field as a whole. I realized too that this healthy creative spirit could only flourish in an atmosphere of freedom and respect for the dignity of man. For this reason, I left the "Art Digest" in 1942, to take my place among the enlisted men of the U. S. Navy.

In the course of three and a half years in the service, a sailor does a lot of thinking and sometimes, a little dreaming. ... My dream was to open a gallery where living artists would have a place to show their paintings, - where talent would be the test and where the unknown would be received on his merit, - where the brush alone would gain admission for the artist and where no wall space went for money. That was my dream and my determined plan.

On returning to civilian life, I turned my steps to 57th Street and scoured the catacombs of the art center, looking for a few feet of space which would be within the limited means of an ex-sailor. I'm sure it would not be a new story to you if I were to tell of the rents, now three and four times what they should be, and of the offerings of "furniture" and other useless items which added a small fortune to the asking prices. It appeared impossible to find a location without going into bankruptcy before going into business.

(Over)

Luyber, J.

*I am very interested in you work you - I am sure you will be successful. I am quite busy at present but I find time you know -*

*Read to you with love*

YOUTH CENTER  
HOTEL BREVOORT

GALLERIES

INCORPORATED

AGENTS FOR CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS

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HOTEL BREVOORT

5th Ave. at 8th Street

New York, N. Y.

However, my love for the Village led me to the Hotel Brevoort, and here I found a space, small indeed, but a start. On 57th Street they said it couldn't be done off the regular beat, but I believed then, as I do now, that the important thing is not where you show the painting but what the painting shows!

On October 7th, 1946, the Joseph Luyber Galleries opened at the Hotel Brevoort.

In operation, the galleries' policy has not compromised one iota of its original purpose, - to encourage contemporary art without exploiting the artist. The galleries' existence depends on a legitimate commission derived from sales of fine paintings only, and at no time is a fee imposed on any exhibiting artist for gallery rental. The future of the galleries will be built on integrity and the recognition of the member artists and the high standards which they have set. The artist will at all times have complete freedom in his work, and the galleries will strive to carry his work to the broadest possible public. The artist will stand on his contribution to American art.

During the recent formation of Artists' Equity, a guild intended for the protection of artists, all those associated with the galleries were advised by their dealer to become Equity members.

This then, is the past, present and future aspiration of the Joseph Luyber Galleries, which I wanted to acquaint you with. One season has passed, with heartening plaudits from the art press, and although gratifying, there is still a hard pull ahead.

And so, Mrs. Roosevelt, it is my sincere hope that I can induce you to become further acquainted with the galleries and with the fine work of the artists, by paying a personal visit in the near future.

The galleries will be open until June 18th, after which I will be leaving for the art colony on Cape Cod where I shall continue to present the work of the artists during the summer season. I do hope you will find time to visit the galleries before then.

Respectfully,

*Joseph Luyber*  
Joseph Luyber

JPL:lc