

1981-04-06

SENDER

Ernest Mancoba

RECIPIENT

Christian Poulsen

FACTS

Document type:

Letter

Date explanation:

Date in letter.translated 2025-02-07

General comment:

The meeting at Sophienholm was probably in connection with the exhibition Sonja Ferlov Mancoba and Alberto Giacometti, June 14 - August 31, 1980, Sophienholm.translated 2025-02-07

Sender's location:

Paris

Sender info (seal, address, etc.):

153, rue du Château

PARIS 14e

Mentioned people:

Troels Andersen

Ejler Bille

Wonga Mancoba

Agnete Therkildsen

Karen Vad

Poul Vad

Archive:

The Ferlov Mancoba

archive.translated 2025-02-07

DOCUMENT CONTENT

Ernest Mancoba writes to Christian Poulsen to tell him that he is in their thoughts and they were glad to see him, even if briefly, at Sophienholm. Poulsen has gone through some challenges, and Mancoba shares that he himself has been ill and is still recovering. He recounts how he and Sonja Ferlov Mancoba are increasingly focused on connecting the spiritual with the material, in a world and a civilization they perceive as divided and in a period of decline. A contemporary time where the individual feels isolated. He quotes Poulsen for having written something similar to him and confirms that he shares his experience. Finally, he aligns himself with Poulsen's decisions regarding his and Sonja's sculptures in relation to the Silkeborg Art Museum (Museum Jorn).translated 2025-02-07

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and the spiritual values of our
present day human society. - If
we will avoid the downfall and
collapse of the world, man
must realize that he can-
not live alone; that what
is human binds together all
mankind -

As to the arrangements with
Silkeborg concerning our scalp-
tures Sonja and I believe your
initiative and decisions were the
best in the circumstances. Troels
is a great human spirit and
has devoted himself to what
I maintain as one of the most
essential activities of our times:
preservation and the understand-
ing of our cultural and spiritual
heritage - I am glad that

153, rue du Château
PARIS 14^e

April 6, 1981

My very dear Christian,

Your letter has been in
my mind since we received it. Both
Sonja and I were filled with great
sadness at the suffering and lan-
guish that you have gone through
so late; but your courage and
belief in man gave us hope and
confidence - It is good that Nike
has stood steadfastly by your side
during this difficult period.

You can be sure that we think
of you constantly and we were glad
to see you though for a little moment
at Sophienholm. We hold in
much esteem the comradeship

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and solidarity which has kept us together for so many a long year.

I was on the point of sending you a word at Xmas when suddenly I had to be transported to hospital suffering from a severe hemorrhagic - bleeding from a vein in the stomach - I have come back home now in a very weak physical condition but I am recovering my forces progressively -

Yes, my dear brother, we have come to realize Sonja and I that our world is even stranger than we believed in our young days. As you say in your letter, each one of us in our present day society "foler [sig] lidt som værende i et tomt rum" -

Socially, physically and materially we are all bound together in the same world but humanly and spiritually we are split up, divided and atomised - Our individualist samfund has been pushed to such extremes that today man begins to feel the deadly consequences of his isolation from the rest of his fellowmen - Each man is beginning to feel as if a lonely planet floating in empty space.

Sonja and I feel more and more that it is vital for our humanity today to work and to strive towards the readjusting and the regaining of the lost equilibrium between the material

you are in contact with him -

Also remember us to both
Poul and Karen and to Bille
and Agnete when you see them.
We must make every effort to
resist the desintegrating forces
of our difficult epoch -

Wonga wants to use the word
as means of expression and
become a writer.

Now dear Christian we
embrace both you and Nike
very affectionately with all
good wishes for the little son

Wonga Sonja and Ernest