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Title: Letter from Allen Tanner to Kirk Askew

Date: circa 1957

Location: MC 2013.3, B1, F7

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[1957?]

327 W. 56th St.

My dear Kirk: The terrible sadness -
the grim pity - of this tragic
untimely occurrence!!!

Taken from the world - and his
task - many years too soon - denied
the long life he so hoped to live -
the right to complete the vast
work he still planned to do -
we can but bitterly deplore all
that depleted his precious vitality -
destroyed his peace - firing him
mercilessly beyond endurance -
for since - in his immeasurable
goodness, he was incapable of
sparring himself - the toll was
finally taken upon his poor
magnificent heart.

I have just reread some of his
letters - and the sheer majesty of
that Spirit - the depth of the mind -
the clairvoyance into the metaphysical
nature of things - The broad wisdom -
that compassionate understanding
heart - all has been brought back

to me - overwhelmingly!
His brilliant Commentaries on the Art, the people,
the life of our times - his violent indignation and
distress over the state of the present-day world and the
human race - Oh! how I wish I could read it ~~to~~
the whole world - for them to hear.

Shouva writes me that you are meeting in Paris
in October. I hope you will continue to be his
Representative and Dealer - selling his drawings,
Pictures etc. and arranging his Shows as in the past.

For I have just read again - in those letters -
how he loved you - admired and respected you - felt
safe, secure and understood - in your hands.

I know what a sad loss this has been for you -
who ^{loved and admired him and} had such a ^{long} close association with him
and his work - and I wish I could read you
were it not so long I would copy - here - one of his
letters - in particular - written to me when my mother
passed away - a ferid and humorous statement of
his conception of the principle of Death - which he

Saw as a benefit from laws mutated
into the higher degrees of the
marvellous - praising the goodness
of the law which ordains it so.

I hope we shall see each
other soon & that you are
feeling well - and have -
otherwise - had a pleasant
Summer

with warmest regards

I am

always yours

A

T