

APR 13 1949

The Park Sheraton  
New York City

12 April 1949

Dear Lou Rosenthal:

Don Kirkley forwarded to me a copy of your article, and I read it with great surprise and pleasure. I didn't know how closely you had me under observation, and it was fascinating to learn your impressions of me. But of course, now that I think about it, I realize that like all great artists you have a highly trained power of observation. It is a wonderful article.

I'm a pretty good observer myself. I like to study character, especially where men are concerned. But as you know, I've got a reputation for that. What you probably didn't know is that when we did the television interview together, I was watching you rather closely and was really fascinated by your mannerisms as we talked. For instance, as you started to talk, you took off your glasses and seemed to be studying them, and while you talked you darted short glances at me from under your brows, then back at your glasses. You maneuvered your glasses to emphasize things you were saying, and worked them with your fingers as though moulding one of your figurines. They kept drawing my attention. They were a little hypnotizing.

It was amusing to me because if you were an actor, you would have been doing just the right things to try to steal a scene. I found myself enjoying something I would ordinarily prevent an actor playing opposite me from doing. I think it is probably true that a sense of showmanship is natural to most artists in all the art forms. High drama is captured and held in your exquisite figurines. You would naturally possess a keen sense of the dramatic to realize them so beautifully.

MAE WEST

-2-

I hear that you are progressing with the figurine you told me about, and it sounds exciting. I'll be waiting to hear more.

I am happy that my playing in Baltimore provided the opportunity to know you and your marvelous work, and I look forward with interest to seeing you, in what I hope will not be a too distant future.

With all good wishes and kindest regards,

Sincerely,

  
MAE WEST

P. S. - Not having your address, I am sending this care of Donald Kirkley, Baltimore Sun.