

40 99 Windsor Rd,  
Penarth,  
South Glamorgan.

18th May.

Dear Steve and Jane,

I'd meant to write ages ago to say  
thank you for the delight in and  
delicious supper which you made when  
Kit and John came over. It was great  
fun and I thoroughly enjoyed the chance  
of chatting with them. It is very refreshing  
to meet Americans with their boundless  
enthusiasm and energy - contrasting terribly  
with the sort of apathy and disinterest  
which we face over here. I suspect that  
this may lead them to being uncritical at  
times particularly in relation to their  
own work. It seems that there must  
be a middle ground between an contrasting  
self-effacement and the Americans and  
their extreme confidence.

Jane, I was so sorry to hear that I had  
upset you that day after the Rome screening -  
you mustn't take my fits of anger too seriously.  
I suppose I vented all my frustration on you  
rather than on Kit and John nor wishing to  
subject them to more attack than they were  
getting. I thought also about what you  
had said that day about the ritual versus  
conceptual. There are of course parallels

I don't know Fine Art, particularly in painting. I'm not sure that I accept that completely as a defense for their work. I suspect that they themselves are curiously unclear 'intellectually' about what they are doing. Their work seems to me to be intuitively spontaneous within the formal changes which they have established - but they seem to evade the issue of 'form and content' - and to me it comes out as a mechanistic juxtaposition of things carrying no meaning, either in relation to more formal devices, or to metaphor. Another point which David reminded me of was their whole failure to gauge or understand our reaction in terms of tele-viewing. They are basing their experience and an understanding of audience expectation on an American audience who are subjected to a far less sophisticated TV in terms of both form and content than ourselves - from the graphics of Top Gun to pop, Kenny Everett to the sort of insight shown by a writer like Dennis Potter and others. I think they need to see a lot more British TV before they can really understand the reaction they received to their work over here. I think it's all too often the case that American artists come over here without really informing themselves about us and our culture. We after all have been fed on American life ~~and~~ etc ~~and~~

to the point where we can barely discern an indigenous European way of thinking. This all sounds jingoistic but I suspect that you or I have seen far more American movies, underground cinema, abstract film, painting, concept art - dance etc here in Europe than they will have consumed British work or had access to our ways of thinking - therefore in some senses they come unprepared and in some ways present a naive front and therefore, for some profoundly irritating. I am sure that it why there has always been a tradition of suspicion dividing the American of European scene, and now for the reasons that they are all too likely to point out that we are underfunded or have not got the technology. I think this is very simplistic after all you could hardly say that they are politically the most sophisticated nation in terms of foreign policy and yet they have all the land we have! Cricket, I know its Sunday but I didn't hear you give you a sermon!

Steve, I didn't get in touch about Coventry and the possibility of coming up on telecoms on tour as I wouldn't be able to make it until June, by which time I imagine it will be too late in term. Will you invite me next term? Please. I am going to get in touch

with Hugh Stoddart and probably  
go up to Birmingham on the 6th or 13th June.  
I like the sound of the 1kon.

I wondered how things are at Coventry -  
I never heard from you <sup>about</sup> the outcome of  
the work in. Lots of different views  
about events week, from Newcastle,  
Raidsstone and Coventry, some raving  
about it and saying that it was the best  
events week ever and others not so  
thrilled. I must say I thoroughly enjoyed  
it. I think the trouble is that the students  
expect to me like checkwork and when  
it doesn't they get very fed up.

One final word in your ear but keep  
it under your hat please, I am on the  
selection panel for Brighton - not a  
word to anybody at the moment, nor even  
Newelline if you see her.

I shall be at Raidsstone this week, next  
and the week after and if I get a moment  
I'll give you a ring.

One other point, would there be any chance  
of doing a little work at Coventry in the  
summer sometime - I'd be grateful if there  
was.

See you soon.

Tamara