



THE PALETTE & CHISEL
ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS
1012 N DEARBORN ST
CHICAGO, IL 60610

May 21, 2021

Dear Nancy,

I know how devastated you must be having lost your best friend, mentor and husband, Richard. But feeling how sensitive you are, I am sure your mourning is going way beyond personal and family. I have to believe you are also mourning the loss for the many wonderful friends and acquaintances you and Richard gathered around you over the years. But even bigger than that, you are mourning for the whole world of representational art... and it is mourning along with you for the loss of one of its greats.

What a huge influence Richard was... master artist, relatable teacher, author, philosopher, philanthropist, personal mentor and friend to many artists both young and old. We all know how he reached out and gave. Fortunately, this gift continues in the form of his books, videos and articles that will inform, teach and influence for generations to come. We also know he absorbed ... not only the beauty of what he was seeing and painting, but the aura of his surroundings as well. He took it in, analyzed it as only he could, and made it a positive part of his persona.

In my letter to the members, I stressed how he played such an important role in our modern development and financial survival, but I pointed out that the Palette also came to play a very strong role in his life.

First of all, my dear, if it wasn't for our four walls, you two wouldn't have met, reason alone.... But in addition and importantly, I feel that the joy, friendship and camaraderie he developed, especially with your young group, helped instill an awakening sense in him to gather, teach and help. That direction drove him for the rest of his years and the art world is a better place because of it.

We are so honored and pleased that Richard (and you) always found time and a way to promote the Palette in such a positive manner in your many articles, talks and forms of communication. The fact that you and Richard's family directed contributions for him to come our way is way beyond the call of duty. So much appreciated and beneficial.

Now it's time to celebrate Richard. I was pleased to hear from Clayton that you two had been in contact and you thought something around Richard's birthday in October ... great minds... I had also thought something in the fall before I heard you talked. Something meaningful.

I have come up with the idea of dedicating the third floor studio to Richard, after all, the creativity was centered around it...and he loved it. Plus you'd be amazed how many out-of-towners show up there to "paint where Richard Schmid painted":

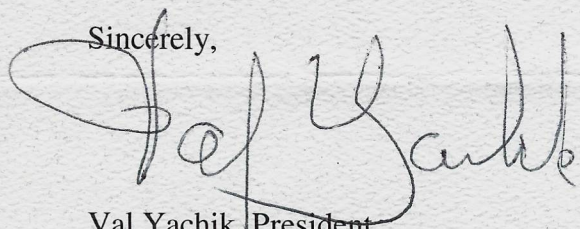
I envision a plaque stating something like...

This studio is dedicated to
Richard Schmid
those who came before him,
those who came after him,
those yet to come.

I'd even thought of attaching it to one of our ancient easels and mounting it at the bottom of the third floor staircase for all who pass to see forever. We'd tie the ribbon cutting to other celebratory events over a period of days...maybe a gallery talk, demo(s) or Clayton doing a workshop w/Alla Prima as the subject or other events. Let me know what you think of this very early idea. Also we want to time it so Covid rules don't hamper any event.

Whatever we do to honor him doesn't seem to be enough. He meant so much to all of us both near and far. But don't forget you meant so much to Richard. He seemed to look to you for love and guidance at every moment. Without your devotion, strength and understanding, who knows what direction his life could have taken. He was in public demand everywhere, but you can take the private moments and forever hold them close. Now it's time to celebrate and honor the legacy. You can take great pride in having played such a strong role in creating it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Val Yachik'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'V' and a stylized 'Y'.

Val Yachik, President
and your friends at the Palette