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David Frech
329 Main Street
Beacon, NY 12508

Dear David:

I hope this letter finds you well and scrambling to keep up with all the sculpture commissions that have come your way.

Enough time has passed since the installation of your *Prairie Woman* at the Lovett Memorial Library in Pampa, that I am compelled to reiterate my feelings of gratitude to you for working with us on the project. As you know, my area of expertise is in nineteenth and early twentieth century American art with an emphasis on the American Southwest. Consequently, I rarely have occasion to work with artists working today. However, when R. L. Franklin asked me to consult on the library project after explaining his views on what good sculpture should look like, I signed on immediately. Having worked at the National Museum of American Art, Smithsonian Institution (now the Smithsonian's American Art Museum), I had the pleasure of not only helping to install great pieces of traditional, classical sculpture by Elisabet Ney, Augustus Saint-Gaudens, and Frederick MacMonnies, but also in building their Hiram Powers Gallery. Accordingly, I am a devotee of time-honored figurative sculpture, and this made consulting with you on the *Prairie Woman* commission both personally and professionally satisfying.

Not being familiar with most currently-working artists, finding artists from who to request proposals was a challenge. However, my research led me to your excellent work on the Lincoln and Tad sculpture in Richmond. Over the time of the Pampa commission, I became familiar with additional examples of your work, including the Nathan Blaser bust, the life-sized portraits of Washington, Hamilton, and Lafayette, and the Matthew Vassar piece. Subsequently, I have come to know you as a kindred spirit and am a great admirer of your work and dedication to traditional sculpture.

I wish you continued success and I hope our paths will cross again in the future. Thank you very much.

Respectfully,



Michael R. Grauer
Curator of Art