

Chicago Mural Group

July 31/77

John Weber
4830 N. SPRINGFIELD
CHICAGO, ILL. 60625
USA

DEAR IRMELA KÖELER,

I met Paolo Friese in early June in Chicago and had the privilege of showing him some of the mural art of our working-class neighborhoods.

- I also gave him a copy of my book "Toward a People's Art" which he was kind enough to praise at two of the discussion sessions. He told me to write to you to ask you to send me a copy of the book "Theatre des Opprimés" - which deals with parallel concerns. Please do send the book, and remember me to Sn. Friese. I will be sending photos of our latest work later. Please excuse my writing in English - although I speak French fluently and Spanish adequately. I write poorly. However, I would be delighted to correspond with European or Guinean muralists - and to exchange documents and slides.

Yours, John Weber

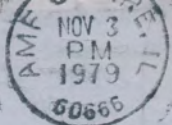
P.S. I have been delayed in writing by the birth of my third child.

Dear Paolo Friere -

Nov 1/79

I am writing on the chance that you remember a mural painter in Chicago and have not yet left for Brazil. I am hoping to make a stop this spring to England & France to make contact with community arts workers there. One of my lectures will probably be at Genoble, France - not so very far from Geneva - and if so I would hope to see you again - if you are still there (Jack Weust of Alternative Schools Network tells me you are returning to Brazil sometime soon.) I will be traveling as far as lecture/workshop or project pay will take me - since at the moment I have no subsidy or grant arranged for - but I am very optimistic that I will be able to spend time with many active people. France seems to have only the beginnings - but has other interesting work going on - the silkscreen event - environments of Ernest Pignon-Ernest etc. In England lots has been going on - although Thatcher is moving it out of step with other social services. You would be interested in the recent book by Su Braden Artists and People, pub. Routledge Kegan, Paul, London in paperback - an excellent study of community arts examining several cases in depth. Very sharp and suggestive but a bit schematic in its conclusions - I think due to the limited nature of the material

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AEROGRAMME VIA AIRMAIL PAR AVION

② Second fold

Additional message area

She examined. Nonetheless a real contribution.
Here we are continuing, continuing—despite a rather
unfavorable situation—and did some good new work
with new materials, assemblage, cement, etc. Certainly
world events are such as to dissolve any illusion that
there can be any source for cultural work other
than the people and the ongoing, independent, complex
struggle. Always with appreciation for your guidance—
John Weber