

ROGER DRUET

Karlgeorg has invited Roger to collaborate with him in a workshop in Germany in 1994. We know there will be music!

They seem to share another belief: Druet's most deeply felt and frequently expressed personal philosophy, permeating all his works is the profound conviction that personal gesture and the act of writing reflect the cultural and spiritual evolution of the writer. He believes that to preserve this act and the letterforms of various cultures is to preserve civilization, and that in even one true gesture can be found dance, music, poetry and all the best of humanity. The European artists seem to find it easier than we do to say these things, though we like to hear them.

Roger Druet has continued to win prestigious honors in France. Among these was Le Prix (prize) Emile Girardeau from the Académie de Sciences Morales et Politiques, in 1986. More recently, he was invited to take part in organizing the major 1990 exhibition, de Salon de Dessin et de la Peinture a l'eau (Exhibition of Drawings and Watercolor Paintings) at the Grand Palais. He invited me to exhibit a calligraphic work there, with two of his, perhaps the first time calligraphy has been shown in a major Paris museum. In 1991 Roger was awarded the Prix Jean Picart Le Doux by the Societe National des Beaux Arts.

Some years ago, Roger presented a gift to his wife, Marie-Louise. It was a painting of an apple, with a calligraphic inscription for her. Then he began requesting from various artist friends "an apple" 22 cc. x 27cc in any style or media of the artist's choice. He now has a remarkable collection of these small

works, ethereal, humorous, serious, ribald, at the artist's whim, and hopes to have a small exposition of them sometime soon. He asked me in 1989 to make an apple for my part in his collection. I have been trying for 5 years to think of what to do, but never made the apple. Each letter I have received from Roger in all this time ended with a small inked apple reminder after his signature. Now I know what I want to do, and Roger will soon have another apple for Marie-Louise. He also always asks me to say hello to all the Friends of Calligraphy he so enjoyed meeting in 1989. ■

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