Dear Carey,

How good to hear from you. Yes, most of the stories out of Detroit are sad. The one good one I have heard is that people have begun to farm vegetables on vacant lots. I'm sure you are still mulling over your visit there.

I was glad to hear that now is a happening time for the arts in London and that you are enjoying it. I well remember what it was like going back to full-time work after blissful months of being a free-ranging artist on unemployment. It is a transition. I hope something comes up that would let you take some time off from teaching, but I also know you enjoy teaching too.

After one of the nicest summers I can remember autumn has started off nice. The Seattle arts scene just starts coming to life with new play and dance performance seasons starting. Also more live music in the clubs and taverns. It is a respite before dreary old winter descends.

Not that I get out a lot but I am looking forward to a Halloween costume ball thrown by some artists friends at a downtown club. Probably wear my radiation suit.

After getting almost no art done all summer, other then build the bronze foundry, I've started drawing again. I have had a simple neutron generator set up on my table; transmuting Uranium to Plutonium for most of this year. Yes, no kidding. Somewhere between dozens and billions of Uranium atoms are being transmuted into Plutonium via fast neutron capture each hour.

The setup is a sculpture in itself: I have the radioactive source material, Americium 241, taken from smoke detectors streaming their alpha particles into emeralds that the beryllium in them converts to neutrons that stream out of the gems.

The planned finished work will be a display mount for the transmuted material which is to be uranium-glazed orange ceramic tableware. I expect it to resemble a medieval reliquary or monstrance. Anyway I have only just started drawing for it. It will feel good to be making a sculpture again.

You sound like you have had a very busy, productive summer and I admire the energy you bring to your art. You mentioned you were moving house and I hope you are all settled into your new crib. I find moving terribly disrupting and haven't moved in years.

With every best wish,

Jim