

Because I am convinced that John Rhoden gives promise of becoming a significant artist, I am glad to write this report concerning him.

During his two years in Talladega College (1934-36) Mr. Rhoden showed such persistent interest in art work that those of us who became well acquainted with him urged him to work his way to an art center for study and contacts. By letters and by personal contacts during vacation periods I know of his struggles against economic difficulties, his disturbance over loss of time in the army, and his search for full and satisfying expression through an art medium. More recently I have recognized his emergence into a period of greater personal unity (perhaps due in part to a comparative but temporary ~~financial~~ financial security) and more abundant creative productivity. It is fortunate that his growing command of his medium is equal to his creative drive.

Last August Mr. Rhoden showed me most of his recent work, and talked at length about ideas he was eager to begin working out in ~~both~~^{both} wood and stone. I was impressed ~~by~~ by the increased power in his latest pieces and by the growing range and ~~depth~~^{perceptive depth} of his creative vision. I ~~believe~~ believe implicitly that he is a person capable of and wholeheartedly dedicated to the pursuit of ~~significant~~ significant creative art; that he is now fully aware of a commanding need to absorb richly and to give richly.

Worksheet of reference for Guggenheim Foundation.

Does this affect too much of you?

Nov. 20, 1949.