

Excerpts from a letter by Ben Shahn

January 28, 1969.

“..... I have known José for a number of years, and have acted in his behalf at an earlier time in order that Harvard University might extend credit to him for his studies abroad. This they did, and properly I believe.

The Fountain of the Heritage of the Americas is a project to which he has dedicated his energies and feelings. I need hardly tell you that José's dedication to the culture and the history of his country is all consuming. His knowledge of Puerto Rico is profound and of course, innate; he can and has brought to these sculptures understanding that no outsider could even approximate.

His competence as a sculptor, his knowledge of the figure, his sense of materials, of space and of tradition are simply superb.

There are few sculptors, young or old, who have the courage to go their own ways, not to be overwhelmed by trends and by journalistic approval; there are fewer still who have the competence to do the kind of work that José can and does do.

Thus, again, I feel that such an artist as José Buscaglia should be held in great pride and should be encouraged in every way possible. In due course he is destined to bring great credit to Puerto Rico. I want to add the voice of one artist to the cause of an art that is increasingly rare in the world.

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