

Susan Jeffers remarks at Atha Tehon Memorial - October 17, 2014

Dear Friends and fellow admirers of Atha Tehon,

I am indeed a member of the "School of Atha"

One never graduates, one continues to include her subtle influence in all of one's work.

I can still remember the first time I went into her office to present my portfolio. There she sat, a lovely person in mauve and grey with a kind and interested expression that never changed. She turned her attention to my work and listened to me describe each piece as if I was a really important artist. I was so grateful to be listened to and considered significant enough to have her attention that I never forgot that day.

I had the privilege of working with her for many years and on many books. Each piece that she touched came away more balanced and more beautiful than the one I had given to her.

Over the years I became used to stopping at her door and down shifting to a slower speed when it was time to go into her office to discuss a book. Atha's office was a different atmosphere, more like a sanctuary of design and perfect good taste than an office.

I had to laugh at one point, when I heard the office gossip at Dial about Atha "not being allowed" to go to press. In my mind, the picture of Atha at press working hard at getting the proof perfect gave me a stomach ache. There could not be a worse combination

of frantic pressmen, pounding presses and decisions made on the fly, right or wrong, together with the precise Atha Tehon.

I am so glad she was spared.

Thank you, Atha, for all your care.

Susan Jeffers