Tess Taylor: How do you make art during a war or debilitating illness or social unrest? How do you get away from old notions of creative genius to make something new?

Welcome to season two of *Recording Artists,* a Getty podcast. I'm your host, Tess Taylor. In this season—called Intimate Addresses—you hear letters from six artists: Marcel Duchamp, Frida Kahlo, Benjamin Patterson, M. C. Richards, Nam June Paik, and Meret Oppenheim. They write to their friends and family, colleagues and collaborators. You meet these makers in their daily lives.

Actor and playwright Anna Deaveare Smith brings these letters to life, illuminating voices of some of the 20ᵗʰ century's most influential artists.

Anna Deavere Smith: You win: You've written to me while I am still in a state of bewilderment and idleness

Taylor: Marcel Duchamp writes his longtime-friend Man Ray after fleeing Nazi-occupied France for New York. Meret Oppenheim confronts a curator who subjected her work to sexist stereotypes. And Frida Kahlo struggles with debilitating pain in a letter to her gallerist and former lover.

Deavere Smith: I haven't paint much because my spine bothers me a lot and I have to wear a damn corset (iron) and it has been hell for me.

Taylor: Today's artists, poets, and scholars join us to reflect on what's at stake.

George Lewis: A lotta people were looking for freedom. Freedom is a Black American trope.

Barbara T. Smith: She's very articulate about what women have felt and experienced. I myself the same.

Taylor: Meeting artists in the midst of personal and universal struggles, holding their fragile and extraordinary letters, you can peek into the world behind their art. Listen to some of the greatest creative thinkers in modern art as they dream, argue, network, and share their love.

Deavere Smith: *I am dancing with these words around you, you are like a fire in the center, and I am dancing around you. You are like a fire in the center, and I am dancing around you.*

Taylor: Every letter holds a story. Join me, Tess Taylor, for *Intimate Addresses.*