

Paris, October 3rd 1964.

Dear Samant.

Yes. Your letter was a surprise for me. But I am glad you wrote to give us your news. It is amazing that the U.S.A. authorities have such difficult regulations concerning foreign artists living in New York, even if they have sufficient record of good work & recognition. However I believe it is not possible to live in a city where your presence is not welcome & you should seriously consider choosing the place best suited to your purpose for the next two years. As far as England & India is concerned I think there should be no problem. If you decided to come to Paris we shall be most happy but you will have moments of visa trouble too which I will try to explain.

I presume that you will take a tourist visa at the French Consulate in New York which is generally valid for 3 months. If you stayed here less than 3 months well no problems. You will see the city & meet the people you like. But after 3 months if you liked to stay, you will need to have the visa extended at the Prefecture de Police. The two essential inquiries are ① Your professional activity ② Your source of income. In fact the real problem is to show that money comes from home. If you brought sufficient travel cheques on arrival, & or can show the proof that you were receiving officially dollars or Pounds even during the course of stay, the visa is easily renewed. The

authorities are very considerate for painters & this formality is to assure that foreigners are not stranded for lack of funds in France. So bring all the money you can in T. Cheques or bank drafts. It will help not only for living but for your visa if you do decide ultimately to stay here.

The second big problem is a place to stay. It is very difficult to get a studio or an apartment. The least one has to pay for a regular studio is about 150 \$ a month. The Peniche (barge) belonging to Mrs Peret could be a solution if the rent is reasonable, if it can be heated, + if it is not far away from the city. But all this will depend on the funds you can bring as to start with you will find it very difficult to sell your paintings in Paris. And you must come well equipped to stay at least a year without being bothered about financial problems.

If you informed me your exact day of arrival I will fix up a room for you in a hotel in the heart of the city at a rent of say \$3 a day. You will have a fresh contact with the city + decide according to your own reactions. Gai will be here on a French scholarship - I think around 15th October. I will ask him to write to you when he comes.

I am showing in Paris on November 18th. So these days have been pretty busy. Janine too has been working well + regularly + I do share your enthusiasm for her work.

Please do not hesitate to write. Let us know what you decide, we shall be only happy to advise + will do all we can to be helpful.

Sincerely, RMA