

ETOY, 4th of Jan. 1986

Dearest Friends,

Thank you so very much for your letter dated 18th of Dec. 85. Time flies... and I feel guilty not having written before... Thank Heaven, my collection is now in Yverdon But I could write a book about all the difficulties, lies, power politics involved in the transaction. As I told you, I never imagined that Museums would come down to such a level. Would it be an antique shop or a gallerie, I could still understand, but not a Museum... Anyway, my problem is now overwith, and Only a transmission of possession has yet to be written by my attorney... I want the whole thing in perfect order, so that no argument could ever be raised, when I am nomore here, to defend my point of view. Thank God, my attorney is an old gentleman, quite understanding but.... very slow ! So I still have some time to wait for him to tackle this paper... The most important thing is achieved, so I can be at rest and looking to the day of the signature with resignation and peace. ...

It was good of you to worry about me, but if I didnot write before, it is only that I wanted to be able to give you the good news... Meanwhile, I was busy... not to worry to much about the whole thing, which could ne'be expedite sooner by me alone... Thank God for work, when things get difficult and out of ones' hand. You get involved ⁱⁿ something else, and it is a good alternative. My dolls keep me busy yet, but with less hurry. I can relax a little, as the sales are slow, due to the very high prices. The material is very expensive, and although my client nor myself donot count the hours spend on the work, it soon become quite an important output for something, after all, quite useless, even ^{if} very decorative; I personnally, would hesitate to buy something like that, requiring so much care in handling... and being only a reproduction which will not become anything else....

Now I have been spending all those festive days in Etoy... and I am glad I am soon over with this effort. The house was very quiet and thank God, I took some knitting and sewing to do, during those many hours, when I donot see a soul and simply wait for tel. calls and visitors who dâdnot materialise....

Thank you for all the photocopies you sent along with your letter, in relation with your exhibits in Paris. I hope that in New-York, your paintings will be appreciated too. You are fortunate to go again in India... and I wish you all the best when there I wish I could go once more to see my friends ... But I dont see how I could manage with a partially paralyzed leg and foot, and all the limitations it obliges me to follow. My life is now most limited, but I am glad it is not worse, as it could very well have been. I can walk and be independant for most things.... and I still hope that with time, some ameliorations will take place. Nerves are very slow to heal... One counts a millimeter a day.....

Lately I have been suffering terribly from tingling and burning sensations in my toes... and this prevents me to walk fast or even without limping. The cold weather aggravates it and the pressing of heavy boots doesn't make things easier either.. Anyway, it is to be accepted . Old age is no fun, and you have Janine's mother as an example. Even when all goes well, it is hard to manage alone, what then, when one is handicapped ? The western societies are hard on those poor souls, left to their own device. I heard that in India, due to the great misery, elderly people too suffer, as their families and children cannot look after them any longer... But I guess, it will never become as bad as in Europe...

I don't know if we are going towards better conditions, or worse ? I am rather pessimistic when I see the simply inhuman attitude reigning in the world. You hear only about violence, death, tortures and what not... One has to build a strong wall around oneself, not to let despair enter in one's heart.

I wish you then very good health, courage and fortitude in this new year 1986. As you say, you may be painting your best canvases... I would rejoice seeing you at the top before you die !!! What good does it do to all the past painters, to be recognised now as masters?

I hope you and Janine take good care of yourselves, eating wisely, drinking moderately and sleeping enough ?? A regular life is a must now, when we are agressed from all sides by pollution and stress.

I cannot tell you how deeply touched I am that you were so concerned about the solution of Raman's collection. It was a great comfort to me that you bothered about it... and that you understood my predicament . Collecting now a days is no more possible, as we have neither the space nor the help needed, to keep it. Only multimillionnaires can indulge yet in this hobby... For how long yet ??

I say good bye to you for now. Please write me all about your trip to India, and How you found things there.... Give my love to Janine, and receive both my very special affection.

Yours ever,

