

PARIS, 30th Jan '57.

Dear Mr. Journal.

Please forgive me for the delay in writing to you. Often & again I thought of informing you of my happiness & my problems, but somehow every time I was delayed. Ever since I came & it is now ~~com. the end of the 4th month~~ I owe you an apology.

Since my arrival I have been happily busy. My first attempt was to acquaint myself with the art treasures of Paris & ~~to have a general idea of the various schools of thought~~ to have a general knowledge of the history of art in Europe - both ancient & modern. ~~I found visited museums, galleries, & the various houses & institutions that exist in Paris provide enormous scope in this direction. My approach has been, of course like that of a student of "Aesthetics" rather than that of a historian though I have taken some pains not to disregard the historical aspect of the developments. Rather than that of the archaeologist or historian. This I find has cleared a lot of confusion of my mind. I have now not only established a certain amount of confidence in my views but I am now not only sure of my own opinion~~

Not only I feel a certain amount of confidence in my opinion about painting, but also reassures me of my own efforts & the direction in which I am proceeding. ~~not only about art in general but also the direction in which I am working.~~

The Beaux-Arts opened in the middle of Oct. & ~~there was a lot of competition for admission.~~ I joined it as "Etudiant libre." I have taken the Painting course in the morning & ~~the~~ also attend the drawing classes in the afternoons, evenings. ~~I have the afternoons to myself & my experiments.~~ As I told you in Bombay, I wanted to do a lot of drawing & painting from life & I am as convinced as before of the of drawing being the fundamental basis of a good painting. I have of course the afternoons & Sundays for more experimental work in Painting.

However, I have not been very ^{happy} content with morning classes at the Beaux-Arts. ~~My method of teaching~~ My uneasiness has not been ^{so much} due to the method of teaching, but due to very atmosphere of the atelier in which I am working. I find the ~~the~~ fellow students ~~very~~ amateurish in their ideas as ⁱⁿ their work. I would not mind that either but what disturbs me quite often is the lack of discipline ^{in the atelier}. The ~~students~~ are ~~very~~ ^{too young}.

so full of youth, joyous & enthusiastic about everything concerning material life & so indifferent to their work & study that at times it's ~~the~~ difficult for any one to concentrate work. But during the last the studio becomes ~~quieter~~

Fortunately during the last two months the atmosphere has improved & the noisy moments have been fewer.

My professor, ^{H. Hensz} has taken to me very kindly, & though he does not care ^{much} for my figure work, he is extremely happy about my ~~compositions & out-door~~ landscapes. ~~There is a great liking for Indians here~~

~~But I do feel for even the few hours that are wasted. & on one of such occasions I went to Comite d'Acculture to see if I could it surprises me to find But it's precisely for figure work that I have decided to be at the beaux-arts & I feel that I will be finding my solutions steadily & surely. That is already I am not quite satisfied, I know~~

~~The time outside beaux-arts is most useful~~ But it is precisely for figure work that I have decided to be at the beaux-arts. I want to do as much drawing as possible instead of ~~jumping~~ hastening to pick up any of the current mannerisms. I feel sure I will be developing my style naturally & finding my solutions steadily & surely. Only I wish my fellow students were a bit more serious & a little less noisy -

Twice a week, I attend the lectures at the école du Louvre: ~~These courses are very useful though I have~~ ^{the course} Histoire General de l'art & l'art d'extreme Orient. These lectures are very interesting ~~with~~ & useful & I have free access to all the ~~National~~ ^{of the Louvre} Museums & the libraries of Musée Guimet with its most remarkable collection of books & a wonderful Photostat.

wonderful

Then there are the museums & so many Exhibitions, ~~there are~~ ^{is} theatre, Music & a vast number of good books. Every minute is worth living & I have been giving myself to my work as if I have only two years of life left. Perhaps after that the same struggle for existence will ~~continue~~ start & I know how much it checks the natural developments. ~~So its~~ ~~only natural~~ I want to make the most of this unique opportunity given to me.

Paris.
4th Jan. '50.

I met Mr. Borival who was very kind to me & has given me a few letters to people I wanted to meet. I also met Mr. Van Malle & Son. for whom I had letters from Mr. . . . I met Mrs. Betty Gandhi & her father too who have been most helpful. But these visits, I must say, have been ~~very rare~~ ^{very} rare, repeated as I find myself ~~very~~ ^{so} busy. There are ~~so~~ many things ~~good things~~ & one has to choose ~~a few~~ out of many good things.

I have been ^{I am} very happy, Mr. Jounot, & I am deeply obliged to ~~my~~ ^{my} friends ~~who made~~ ^{who made} specially you who made this trip possible. The problems of living in Bombay & the stagnation ~~of~~ in my work during the last ~~two~~ years, had ~~enured~~ ^{enured} my enthusiasm ~~shaken~~, delayed most of my projects. But I ~~feel~~ I have regained the confidence, as much as my health which is considerably improved since my arrival. ~~I see~~ ^{I see} ~~I see new possibilities~~ ^{I see new possibilities} & I feel healthy - mentally & physically & I see new possibilities & I am working ~~freely~~ ^{independently} just as I would like to in an atmosphere most congenial for work & studies. Thank you once again; I shall be happy if you will write. ~~I suggest any~~ Please do ~~suggest~~ tell me ~~if~~