

BOMBAY. 18th January '68

My dear Krishna,

Thanks for your letter dated January 11th.

Yes. I do see that you are really going about selecting paintings like an inspector of the Beaux-Arts. Is this attitude guided by the Akademi regulations or by your own personal judgements, I really do not know. I have indeed no intention to get into any polémique in the art world here. However, I must say that I am not used to any one selecting my paintings for exhibitions either in Europe or elsewhere. Only once Olivier Debré had asked me to send a few paintings to select from, for the Salon des Réalités Nouvelles in Paris, which I flatly refused. This kind of selection we have known in the Art Schools or the Jeune Peinture. For the rest any important art organisations invite an artist to participate to an exhibition + leave him entirely free to decide which painting would represent him ~~well~~ best.

You know I have just come. I haven't shown in Delhi for years. + almost never in the exhibitions organised by the Lalit Kala Akademi. It was just not possible to send paintings from Baner. Hence I really do not want to start discussions. May be there are things I do not know which determine attitudes + procedures here. So I am resorting to this personal letter to you where I want to give you a bit



of my mind & express opinions for what they are worth. The irony of my letter to you from Paris, escaped you & so I have to put matters plainly.

I have three paintings in Bombay at present. Any of them will be good enough to represent me. "Trishna" is delivered to Mr. Neville Wadia. I will not mind being represented by it, if Mr. Wadia is prepared to loan it. The responsibility of transport & insurance will have to be undertaken by the Academi & Mr. Wadia told me that he would write to you himself. Besides this, I have two recent canvases of the same size ready - one grey & another red. One or both could also be available. In this latter case, the advantages obviously are ① it's a recent painting, ② it will be for sale & ③ in case of damage Mr. Wadia, who has paid, will not be involved. At this stage, I can only state facts. It's up to you to take your decisions. In my last letter, I stated that I would bring the painting myself. I am afraid, I am having a bad time with my foot - unfortunately a post-traumatic arthritis has developed & I must rest a few weeks more. So most probably our trip to Delhi has to wait till both of February.

I am sorry to know that the selection of the Indian Section has been such a complex affair. I know that the difficulties are there, only try not to make them more difficult than they really are. This should be attained by some confidence & faith in some of the painters you have known so well.

Fond love -

C/o Bal Chhabda -

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