

Paris, 27th Aug. 1958. (P)

My dear Khanh,

I shall try to write tonight & send you this short letter without delay, <sup>though</sup> I should have much like to write in better details. The project has taken more than a year! Your good letter received a fortnight back pleased me greatly. I hope I can write - perhaps with a lesser sense of guilt for my silence.

Yes, things are better for me now. I caught the bull by the horn & besides some ~~a~~ circumstances too helped me. Ça va maintenant. My work is selling. Sales apart, it 'is' growing. There is a tension in work, not the unhealthy tension created by petty material or sentimental situations. Though even now I do not disregard them. They help understanding of things, unless they lead one to the state of helplessness - so common.

Remember the X'mas cards I was doing. Nothing seemed to work. For two years or more my paintings were refused everywhere. Why? I still do not know - particularly after such a good



start in 1952 + '53. I had to make a living by other means. Tried several jobs. Finally book illustration seemed to work. It was very hard work and brought only \$15 a month. This lasted a year almost. I painted less but felt myself a respectable man. Gradually I arranged it so I gave more + more time to painting. First group exhibition was presented in a newly started gallery GARA VINCY, in rue de Seine Oct '55. It was very well received. Since then, events have led to events. I painted restlessly - left all odd jobs. Several group shows were presented here, then Biennale de Venise, + finally the selection, + award of the "Prix de la Critique".

I should give you some details. It's one of the most coveted prizes. Started about 10 years back by a ~~group~~ jury of 14 parisian art critics, it has now a big prestige. Buffet, Loryon, Mineaux were some of the Lauréats. For the first time it has been awarded to a foreign artist, + it has meant a lot of criticism for + against my work. In July there was a collective show of all the 10 artists the jury selected during the year. End of the year the whole exhibition goes to Japan - Tokio. I am offered a free exhibition by the galerie St. Placide in September 15th to 28th. This is a bit too early



for me, but the dates just could not be changed. The <sup>2</sup> best of my work is in Venice or is sold out & since this is my first one-man-show in Paris, I should have like to ~~put~~ show the best. Besides I have now several bitter enemies - who are constantly writing against me as I have allies who are giving big & prominent work-ups. I am working. I have a big room ~~to~~ at Place Maubert which I have rented for two months. ~~That~~ I think <sup>all this is</sup> ~~not~~ not bad, but I should have liked to have more time. Regarding the development of events during the last one year, it seems unbelievable. But I do think I am fairly detached & can smile - but I admit I smile mockingly - bitterly.

I could continue writing & giving you several details which could amuse you, but I have much to do. We shall write & talk later, but I shall send this letter whatever its face & work be. I thank you for your 4 letters I received one after another & particularly ~~the~~ for the spirit of your last letter. I thank you also heartily for having bought the watercolour you took when you were here. It helped.

Tell me when you write, & I hope it will be soon if Mr. Madanjeet Singh asked you to send your work for the Biennale de Venice. I did my best to see that you were represented.

"Prisme des Arts" an important art magazine is giving an article on contemporary Indian painters. I asked Rudy to do the article. He wrote to me a very sweet letter, but regretted he had no time to write. Then we



asked Sham Lal 'Adib', subeditor Times of India. He agreed & will be doing the article. I esteem this man, though I know him only through his writings. Hope he does a good job. I had half a mind to ask you to write, but you are a painter yourself (I do not take you seriously as a ~~Banker~~ Banker.) Well, this article will first be published in 'Prisme' and later in a Book form - International Art.

Now the point is that if Mr. Sham Lal has not written to you already, please do write to him yourself. Say only that Raza asked me to send you a few photographs of my paintings & here they are. Also please send me a few. I know the editor Mr. Waldemar George fairly well - He is a very important art critic here, knows almost everyone, was a friend of C. B. Bell, Roger Fry & others.

Rest in my next. Do send the photographs to Sham Lal at the earliest. I really wish that the best is presented. You know that the interest in Indian painting is growing every day. & I think what Indian painters present - if the best is presented, it has a very great interest. I must end now. I wish I had your energy - which enables you to devote yourself to a beautiful wife, two unmarried daughters, all those evenings with friends, & banking & painting. I shall write again at better length. Will look forward to seeing your work. Love to you & Renu, from Janine & myself

My addresse will always be:

18, rue Chaptal, Paris - 9<sup>e</sup>

Raza