

PARIS, 24th Feb. 1952.

My dear Gade,

This exhibition has kept us occupied so completely that I could not reply to the two letters you sent me some time back. And its not yet over on the 23rd as originally fixed; we had to extend it for two weeks more due to the wide appreciation our work has received.

Well, here is news for you in brief. Vernissage - on the 9th Feb. from 4 to 8 P.m. People started pouring in from 3 p.m.; from 4 onwards the two rooms we had were packed with visitors continuously till 8 p.m. and at 9 we had to excuse ourselves so tired we were.

It was not the vernissage we are used to in India with the distinguished speaker, nor was champagne served as is customary here. (Nor was I nervous as on my previous exhibitions!) There were ten paintings of each of us on the wall + some of Newton's drawings, selected + hung with utmost discretion + thought.

Amongst the visitors were: M/s. Bernard Dorival, Conservator Musée d'Art Moderne; Prof. Philippe Stern, Conservator, Musée Guimet; George Hergemau, ministre des Beaux Arts; S.A. Masson, directeur des musées de la ville de Paris; Louis Pauwels, Editor 'ARTS'; Philippe Soupault, Madelaine Rouseau and numerous critics, writers, artists + friends.

It was not an easy job to receive them all + answer their questions about our work or about the contemporary art movement in India, give photographs, fix appointments, sell paintings + pose for photographers. Besides our friend J. Bhao nagary who took a small film, there were 8 photographers. An american journalist took photographs in colour for some american journals.

The 'Radio Nationale Paris' asked us for a talk on "Chaine Nationale" for an important programme "l'art et la vie". I represented "les trois peintres Indiens" + spoke in impeccable french.

The exhibition has been largely attended. Reviews are prominent + good for all the three of us. I am sending two out of several that have appeared so far.

The Sales: 10 paintings in all sold so far besides several of Newton's drawings. I sold 6 Landscapes, Newton 2 + Padamsee 2.

Its all magnificent for a start. The most wonderful has been the sales which today are almost impossible in Paris + without which all our further activities could not have been possible. It costs Rs 1000/- to hold an exhibition here in a good gallery. Those good old days are over when gallery people used to invest their money on unknown painters. 52

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I have one more important buyer - Baroness Guy de Rothchild. He is a very famous jew collector & millionaire - owns Picassos Braques & various other artists - & now a Raja too.

So this is in short what has happened. Is it not fine? To show this letter to our friends please. At the moment I am really so busy that I cannot write the various letters I had wished to. It will be over soon, I hope. But it never seems to be over. We have 3 small exhibitions to make very soon for various institutions - only for a short time. Then the important Paris exhibitions are coming & we have to put in better works - new ones. And in December will be our next show on a much bigger scale.

I could not go to the Academie Julien so far. I am frightfully sorry. I shall do that soon next week. I hope it's not too late. I also hope that your wife & children are in good health. Thanks for the stamps you sent and also the news of B.A.S. exhibition.

I have not written to any one - though & much I had liked to. Please share this letter with my friends. Enclosed are cuttings from Arts & lettres francaises. I shall write again, but will also await your reply. Love - RAZA

My dear Hussain,

Above, I have given in a nutshell, all that is important regarding our exhibition. We are doing fine.

We have no letter from you. How is your latest exhibition? We are all keen to know about you. Will you & Gade & Tyeb join us soon? Come old man. Things are moving fast here.

There is a considerable interest in art circles here about contemporary art in India. The editor of "Arts" wants to give publicity to contemporary artists & movement & has asked us for material & photographs. There is a similar suggestion from Museum of Modern Art. We don't have enough good photographs. And I am writing this to secure your help & that of the R.A.G. in the matter. It's a very important thing & has to be dealt by you. Ara & Gade with cooperation of other friends.

Besides the 5 of us that are here we want to include: George Keyte, Amrita Shu Gill, Jamini Roy. Of these we have enough material here. But we don't have good photographs of - Palsikar, Ara, Hussain, Babuji Hirurkar, Bhagat, Hekster, Bendre, Chowda, Raiba, Gade, Mehra & may be some others you may think of. Could you ask them for two good (cabinet size is double postcard) photographs two each of two of their best paintings (i.e. 4 prints). I don't think any payment can be done, but it will be very helpful in promoting modern Indian painting on the map as an important contemporary movement. I am writing to Harishchandra Lal in Delhi & to Calcutta group too.

This is important & urgent. Try to do the best. Of Palsikar ask Mr. H.R. Leyden & Dr. Stinzel, they have the best Palsikar I know. Tyeb should send a good print of his landscape. And of course you ought to decide & discuss it amongst yourself. Mr. High (Rudy) & Schlesinger will I am sure give helpful suggestions. With love to you & salams to friends. Pl. reply - RAZA

Ask Kaban - Did not my letter deserve a reply?