

29th Dec '82.

My dear Raza,

It is a holiday to-day and the Gallery is fairly quiet. It is therefore a perfect setting to pen a few intimate lines to you which I have long wanted to do.

First of all let me clear this impression which you might have had that in the expatriates' exhibition at our Gallery we had forgotten perhaps to include you. No sooner the sentence "Indian Artists Abroad" is mentioned by anybody in any context, your name is the first that comes to our lips so it is just not possible that we would have had you included as an ~~seen~~ after-thought! Let me give you the genesis of this whole concept of the exh. Last year whilst Kekoo was abroad, he had been meeting some artists in New York like Zarina + Mohan Samant and had picked up some of their works. Anish's paintings had already been lying with us since his last visit to Bombay and had never been shown. Kekoo then met an artist called Jev in Bern and a Jewish fellow named David who had visited ~~Rashid~~ Bombay with Rashid's last group, so the idea grew in

his mind that maybe he would have an exhibition of some of these Indian Artists living abroad and include you & Vish as well. He was full of enthusiasm and different plans when he was in Europe but after coming back the picture changed! He had his illness from last December and then everything which entailed extra effort was anathema to him. In the meantime Rashna was getting embarrassed by ~~for~~ the two artists asking her what was happening about the exhibition so she would write to us and ask "Papa, what are you doing about it?" Suddenly, I made up my mind that we would have it in December so I wrote to you that urgent letter. Thank you very much for your response and the immediate delivery that was effected by Rashna. I love the portfolio but we have not found a buyer yet who is ready to buy all five. Anyway we have written down people's requests and may be we will split it up if at the end of the exh we have not found anyone who is prepared to buy all five.

There is real disaster as far as the reviewers are concerned just now. Suddenly Nadkarni is refusing to do any reviews for some unexplained personal reason, the India Express lady has broken her leg and the "India Today" write up was a real fumble what with Nadkarni & Loday Singh writing together after interviewing

both Kekoo + Kalya Pandole. We made several corrections and requested Uday Sir to send in a fresh copy to Delhi but he let it come exactly as he had written it which is a pity because it was full of exaggerations and inaccuracies. With Rashna, I will send you whatever has appeared.

Now to talk about the Paris fair. We have gone through the ups + downs of the excitement of it and thinking at other times that it is not such a great opportunity as far as the Gallery is concerned. However I know this much that it will depend on what we make of it. It is funny that Kekoo who had been dreaming + planning for an opportunity like this for the last twenty years, when it is given to him without having to undergo such a killing financial burden, is far from enthusiastic. It is his low mood I think and I am sure the correct perspective will come as we go along and plan for it. One thing I do want to state very unequivocally and which I mentioned to Bal + Akbar also. That had it not been for you Raza and your bond with us over the years, the others would have happily looked elsewhere. When Kekoo thanked them for the confidence that they were reposing in us, I said "the first person we have to thank is Raza. I know that without giving us the opportunity to turn down this proposition, he would not have wanted to go to ~~any~~ anybody

else!" I suppose you know that since
Tyeb cannot afford to show himself we
are paying for his share of participation
about $\frac{1}{2}$ share more as the Gallery's share.
Akbar wanted us to ~~put~~ come in with
one full share of the Gallery also but when
I suggested $1\frac{1}{2}$ shares But readily agreed.
Afterwards from Rashna I heard that
your suggestion was that we should not be
landed with any expenses since we would
not be earning any commission but that
is not the way Akbar talked when he
put the proposition to us. Anyway I would
like to feel that we are all in this game
together. You are risking your money &
so are we! Let us say three cheers and
that we look forward to something which
can take Indian art to a whole new
dimension. We have to plan and dream
it and intend it that way.

Rashna & Bankie are on their
South India tour just now and Anisha
is with us. Unfortunately we could not
make it to Mathura as we had hoped
to with Behroze & Anisha.

Before I end, I want to wish
a very happy New Year to both Janine
& you. We look forward to meeting you
in Paris. Much love

Ever yours affly
P.S. - I forgot to mention that it was
lovely meeting your brother & sister-in-law
when they just walked into the gallery by chance the other day. I was