

Bombay, 5th Apr.

My dear Raza + Janine,
It is strange that when I heard Rudi's news, I wanted to communicate with you but then one got caught up in the melée of things and the moment was lost. I have been very touched by the beautiful way you have expressed yourself so feelingly and so sincerely. Kekoo is at the factory and has not yet seen the letter but I am sure that he will want to use it for the condolence meeting that is being organised on either 11th or 18th inst. It will be most appropriate and will be one of the most touching tributes that Rudi so richly deserved.

Krishen Khanna was the person who first got the news about Rudi and we heard it via Hebbar also on 29th March. We have not heard how it happened — possibly it was a heart attack. When I come to think of it, it was the most beautiful way in which Rudi could have left this world. He was active, full of vigour, was back into the main stream of life connected with Indian art and did not have to experience the loneliness that comes because of old age or ailments. I have seen the examples too often with people who were so much a part of the activity but find themselves left out due to various circumstances. Pipsy Wadia, the

vivacious and beautiful lady-friend of Dr Homi Bhabha was one such pathetic example. By the way she was a very good friend of Rudi's and I remember ~~Roo~~ him telling us on one of his earlier visits of how pathetic it was to see her in that state - bitter, complaining, forgotten and house bound.

What I am so happy for Rudi is that he had a real come-back into the Indian art scene after having been cut off for a few years, out in Vienna. For him it must have been the reward and recognition for the years of involvement with the Indian artists. Just two months ago, he was in Bombay for a few days and one afternoon we sat in the Gallery chatting over lunch from Sanovar. The elections from the South were due and he was full of what the results were going to bring. He had such a perceptive + keen mind that I remember how quickly he had sensed the temper + mood of the country - wondering what direction the country was going.

Rudi was the most important person on my agenda for the "Two Decades of Gallery Chemould" exhibition which I was planning to have. I don't know what shape the exhibition would take ~~or~~ but one thing I was absolutely sure of was that Rudi would ^{just} ~~have~~ been asked to contribute an article for the catalogue which I want to produce. I don't think I can find a substitute for him, by a long shot.

Yes, we will be completing 20 years of Gallery Chemould this September and it is important that we present ourselves with a

major exhibition. I am not very clear of what ~~the~~ form the exh. could take. A group show with a few major artists or a Retrospective of a couple of artists or what? Anyway, since I am coming to Europe this summer, I thought that the show could be held in January end so I have already applied for the larger hall of the Jehangir which will be allocated to us after a couple of months I hope.

Yesterday, I was talking to Pilloo Pochhara and she would like to have her retrospective and Tyeb is ready with his paintings so I was wondering whether it would be a good idea to have 3 consecutive exhibitions as a special event to mark our 20th year. The third exhibition I thought could be of your paintings since you have already shown the desire to have your exhibition in February. What do you think? The only problem would be of course that Mr Chatterjee would not agree to let Gallery Chemould use the exh. hall for three continuous weeks!!

The other solution is to have a mixed group of artists but there will be problems there in who you invite and who you leave out. Would you like to give your suggestion on this? I will be very grateful if you think from this angle: ① What is it that from the artists' point of view they would like Gallery Chemould to do as an event which would give a fresh fillip to the Art Movement? ② What would the Public appreciate as something which is different from the run-of-the-mill exhibitions?

A good catalogue is a MUST of course. In this my idea is to give ~~some~~ an introduction which Kekoo would write tracing the background of his involvement with the Art movement way back in the 40s. ~~From~~ The movement way back in the 40s. The from 63 - 83, the number of one-man shows, the significant exhibitions we have held, the new artists whom we picked up who have become well-known etc, could all be stated.

Another article could be of one person (I have a ^{boy} in mind who is very good in writing) ^{the coming} asking various artists their views on the Gallery movement - has it helped the artists? Has it contributed to the art scene in any significant way? etc. Another article may be from Gulam Sheikh or Mani Subramaniam. How does the idea sound to you?

Kekoo is thank God, coming into his own slowly but surely. Once he gets finally enthused, I know his mind will tick and he will be able to contribute significantly. At the moment I plod on hoping the 'Shakti' will be pushing me into the right direction.

It seems that the Art Fair deal is not on. Anyway there is always next year is it not? By the way, Kekoo has been in touch with some of the French people who are planning the Indian exh. in Paris. One of them is going to show us the list of painters they are contemplating and have asked Kekoo to give his mind on that. The only big stumbling block is likely to be Laxmi Sishare. He might insist that he would be responsible for the selection and then nobody can have a say. Let us see how it all goes.

Shireen is going to London next week & will then spend some weeks with Rashmi in Bern. This is her holiday time until June. Much love to you both.