

R424, 81, Avenue Secrétan, 75019 PARIS,  
January 3rd, 1979

My dear Suresh,

Since I left Madras on the 18th December, life has been full of occupations & preoccupations. However by now I have been able to rest, write urgent letters & above all I had had some time to think & understand the great experience I have lived "at home", along with you.

In Bombay, the showing at the National Center for the performing Arts was nothing short of a performance. BAL hung the paintings with utmost care & understanding. They looked well & were appreciated. Everything went off well, & I could leave India as planned on the 23rd morning & was in Paris the same day. Janine received me at Orly air-port & soon we were at Av. Secrétan & to the problems of Parisian life.

Now that I have had such a comfortable living, full of attention & consideration during 3 weeks in India, I am feeling like a spoiled child, capricious & demanding. I tell Janine not to get worried, I will need time to assimilate the experience. In the meantime, I have to get down to work. The studio is empty & apart from the Norway show in October, I have a standing order for a painting to be done for an office of a Financial Director of Presse Parisienne.

I am sure that you both have started working off, I left, particularly Sachida for his Madras showing. I wish you both God-speed. You know there are always beautiful days & serenity after the "Storm".

Please be assured that I have paid no vain compliments to any one during my visits & survey of Art & Artists. I am convinced that there is abundance of



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talent in Madhya Pradesh. Poetry, music & art are a part of our blood. The urgent need is to create a congenial climate & help those who are just starting, recognize & compensate those who have done some body of work. As far as we are concerned, I know the artist must work at all cost, against all hurdles, making art expression an inner necessity, compelling & irresistible. We will forge ahead. It's very fortunate that Ashok Bajpayi is in charge of the Madhya Pradesh Kala Parishad, and has insight, courage & a will to implement the right decisions. It's the poet in him that makes him an inspired man, though I do not know what miracle has made him a good administrator!

My friend, I could still tell you a million things, my heart is still beating the pulsations of the fresh contact with the land & people I love dearly. But it is time for work for us all. So I must end this letter - (a copy is going directly to Nagden) - with all my sincere & heartfelt thanks for your help, hospitality & affection.

One request though. Please see to it that the 9 paintings belonging to the Parishad come back to Bhopal in good form. May be you will have to undo the two big ones again - but I hope this will be for the last time & that they will never leave the stretchers again. You see, the canvases suffer at the folding when stretched over & over again. Also please see that there are no folds - that they are properly stretched & cleanly framed - once in Bhopal.

My friend BAL will help in every possible way. Also Kekoo & Khurshid Ghandhy. Chemoold have taken over the exhibition & will show some chosen paintings till 10th January. Ashok will get in touch with them as to when to get back the 9 canvases. I have left for you with BAL the gun tacker & staples - please contact him at Dargah Apts, 7th floor Mount Pleasant Road, Malabar Hill Bombay 6, (Tel: 816 395)

It is snowing out side. The roofs are white. Cars are stuck. Water is frozen. We have a cold wave of extreme winter over Europe. But I will out live this too. The inner flame is bright & burning.

Fond love to you & family -

NHCH