

"OAKLEY"
RANIKHET (U.P.)

14 Oct. 61

Dear Raza,
It seems such a long long time since I had any contact with you. And tonight (it's 2 A.M.) when I am unable to sleep (not that I am suffering from insomnia) while reading a book, I thought, I better write to you now - not because of any sentimental reasons but on account of all those old old days which we had spent together and which will always fill my memory with haunting phantoms.

I read your letter written to Shreebat Rai (as we both of us are together sharing a huge bungalow) and we decided to write to you immediately. I joined Shreebat Rai 2 months ago in this remote corner of the Himalayas where nothing except the eternal silence of its mountains echo day and night. It's ideal place for work without any distractions except nature - that heavenly sunlight with shimmering snow visible from the window of my room. My wife and a son (yes I got a son 5 months ago) too are here. I am planning to stay here till the first week of November.

Your news fill my heart with joy and pride. Your show in Montreal and Paris and an expected visit to California - all of them are extremely encouraging. I wish you best of success in your journey which, I am sure, will be full of successes. But you - you are really a unfaithful friend. You never cared to reply to my two letters - written quite a long time ago. And we really crave for some tiny bit of news about you.

I receive "ARTS" regularly and so quite in touch about the art activities in Paris.

Here so much has happened and I do not know, how much you have been told by friends. And moreover, Harsain must have given you quite a bit of news items. I got a letter from Bal the other day and he says that he plans to put up shows in his gallery of Gaitonde and Kishan Khanna. He may come here for a few days.

I may come to Europe in April 1962 but not very sure.

My work is continuing as usual. I may have an exhibition next month in Delhi as I have quite a few new canvases.

I am very happy to know that Janine is making much progress in her work. Please give her my best regards. I wonder, in what direction she is moving.

You will be glad to know that I have been elected as a member of the Lalit Kala Akademi. But how much I can contribute in the work of the Akademi, I have my doubts. As I had told you in Paris that sooner or later the Akademi will be responsible in the Indian participation in the world exhibitions - it has become true now. They sent works to Sao Paulo, Paris and they will participate now in Venice and 'Commonwealth Art Today' show which is being organised in London.

How is Akbar? Is he coming to India soon?

Write to me in detail about you at the above address as I will be staying here till 10th of November. Love to you and Janine.

Ram