

BY AIR MAIL  
PAR AVION

*Aérogramme*

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My dear Raza,

16th Nov '65.

I had somehow suspected that your long silence did not bode well and your long awaited letter has proved my fears. I and Lenu are deeply distressed at the trouble you have been having with your eye and we fervently hope that you will be spared the operation. Thank God that you are careful with your health and take all the precautions which you are expected to - rather unlike me in this respect! I asked the doctors for fear that they will discover something! Thank Heavens too that you have an angel of a wife who looks after you - In this regard we share the same good fortune!! Anyway if an operation does become necessary, you shouldn't flinch - these things are managed quite easily these days! We can be glad that we weren't born in medieval times much as we may admire their art, their knowledge of matters medical left much to be desired!

Your letter arrived with one from Akbar and one from Corinna. She says that she had tried to call you but got no response & I concluded quite correctly that you were in Gorbio. Akbar seems to be in full swing in New York. I'm told that he hasn't as yet done much work. It takes that fellow some time to get it going. His show in Montreal has been fixed & I consider that this will be a very good thing. I also feel that he must get himself a Gallery in New York as this will give him a valuable lever to handle his Paris Gallery. He mentions that Souza is there on a grant & so is Chandra. Good luck to them - There's never any point bothering about the inflated importance which certain mediocre artists accord to themselves. One must create one's own world of values, friends, critical opinions etc. What is certain is that you cannot pull the wool over people's eyes forever. Souza never could have expected the cold reception he got in Delhi & Bombay during his last visit.

I am glad that you have worked in spite of the enforced rest. I would love to see the three big ones you've done. I think that your larger canvases succeed much more than do the smaller ones & the reason I suspect is that forms have to be consolidated more definitely in bigger paintings - smaller canvas seem fragments & not complete enough statements. Congratulations on selling another to Ville de Paris - I'm delighted.

I have been working steadily & have sixteen sumies to show. My exhibition will open at Kumar's on the 27th & will run for a fortnight. Goodness only knows how the conservative taste of the local citizens will react. As always I'm prepared for no sales. Talking about sales, this season has not begun very encouragingly & things are dull. I'm living mainly on the small amount of the contract money from Kumar & on what I was able to sell earlier this year. I'm not anxious & am still robust enough to hope that things will begin moving again. I have sold a couple of sizable oils recently & Rudi bought a drawing last week. In a way it is better that you



should defer your trip till next year. I wonder if  
Lekoo Gandhi has met you yet. Take my advice & don't make  
any commitments with him. He is a merchant & doesn't  
understand a thing about painting. What you should do is to  
book the TAJ ART GALLERY for November 1966 - that is what I am  
doing & book Shridharani Gallery here, or if you don't want to take  
the trouble here, you could go through Kumar or Shoominal (not to be  
recommended) or Chemonid-Kunika (to be recommended even less!)  
but you should start thinking about this now - don't leave it too  
late! If there is anything you would like me to do, please let me know.  
We are going to miss your not being here & had been greatly looking

forward to your coming here + to welcoming Janine, but we  
can start looking forward to a grand reunion next year. - I  
didn't mention that I have been painting a number of figurative oils  
- I'm quite happy with them but have to do a lot of work yet. I'm  
not showing them at all even though I know I could sell them.  
I've, who is a neighbour, is painting well + has a show coming  
up in January. Ernest Von Leyden is here. We met him yesterday  
+ doubtless we shall be seeing a great deal of him, he seems  
to be a very pleasant fellow. So you know if the Ribonds are coming  
Hue hasn't replied to my letter! Our very very fond love to  
you both, a kiss on each cheek for Janine -  
As always,  
Krishen.