

Paris, 24th December 1985.

My dear Kenneth,

Following my letter to the Akademi, this personal note is sheer expression of joy, to know about your contribution to the wild life Fund. Coming as I do from the forests of Kanha & Kisli, where our family lived when we were children, I am indeed delighted. Also I am glad that paintings are honoured at such levels. I also think with joy & satisfaction of Ramkumar & the Kalidas award & Samman, which is not only a tribute to him but to those who have honoured him so.

This personal letter is to avoid mixing up subjects & also to feel free to say what I have in mind. I realise the amount of work you are putting up for the biennale. Doing my little bit here, I know the time & effort it demands. And I am glad that we are investing ourselves. Our National Institutions are in the making & they will be what we make of them. Our indifference will lead to decay as the so many elements are bound to creep in. Whatever the results of our present efforts, atleast once a while we can try to do things which could show a way, set an example.

The problem is that we haven't the energy of our youth nor the time. While we do this, painting is left over. And it's a personal loss. How to retain a good proportion between the two is the real problem.

Anyway let's do well what we have undertaken. As it should be clear from my letter sent to the Akademi today, Ganbikant & Melehi are both coming. They will be awaiting their visa & tickets. Personally, I went a step further & I reserved my seats ^{with AIR INDIA, Paris} for the departure on the 22nd January A1-164. This is simply the reservation & will imply that Reserve Bank permission is obtained & the Lalit Kala pays the tickets & Air India Paris is informed. Since Janine is

not coming I have reserved first class. It's the same for the return journey for the 23rd Feb - though thou at present I am in the waiting list.

I could not take this liberty for Gandhikut or Melhi which I think you should fix up directly from Delhi. As I wrote, Pierre Gandhikut could leave from here on the 12th Feb or 14th Feb - & it will be ideal if both can take the same plane - Melhi & Gandhikut are friends & Melhi speaks English.

On arrival on the 23rd, I plan to stay with Rashna & Bernard Imhasly, at Hauz Khas - for 4 or 5 days. I will then go to Bombay. If the L.K.A. will fix up my stay at ASHOKA as you mention from 8th Feb to 23rd Feb, it will be wonderful.

Rashna plans to welcome my book in Delhi with a reception in her home. I am suggesting the dates - say - 12th Feb - or - 20th Feb. I am bringing 2 large & 5 or 6 small canvases rolled up with me. The roller should be 180 cms - long & 15 cms in thickness. Do you think that I can bring these as a painter carrying a few of his own works? Or will you advise me to bring only smaller paintings - say 120 x 120 cms or less, rolled up. In Bombay I never had any problems, but Delhi, with the Biennale & other exhibitions, may be more complicated. I am not suggesting you should intervene in any way. In fact, I will like to do it in the most normal way. An international convention permits painters carrying their own works. I am just inquiring if you will advise me to be careful because there have been problems in the past.

More than this please see that the passage is paid & Air India or I am informed. Also Pierre Gandhikut & Melhi. (Dandi-March)

I met Husein in Paris who dashed off a huge decorative panel in three days. Gandhi ji took more time! No news from Bal. Sanjit had health problems. I wonder when is Bhushal inauguration. Can the programmes be co-ordinated. It's rare that such interesting people are together at the same time. Do please write. At the best for 1986, fond love to you & Penny, Prasika & Pakesh who should be with you at present

As Ever MHA

24th Dec. 5 pm - I have just got a tel. call from Melhi from Rabat. I told him that you had no news from him. Letters from Rabat take weeks to come if they come at all. I advised him to send you a telegram. Also he will post you a letter from Paris next week to confirm acceptance. He will apply for his visa on Monday 6th January at the Indian Embassy. This bit of late news, after the 1st letter sent earlier today.