

Paris, 11th November 1965

My dear Krishna.

All the three letters you sent reached me in time. I have been busy & depressed for many reasons & I am sorry I could not write. More recently I was so uncertain about my trip to India that I found it all the more difficult to write. However this has been so much delayed & today I must write & give you news about us.

I will start with the main problem. This summer I had very serious worries about my right eye. You know that I was taking a good deal of care, brought spectacles, saw a few ophthalmologists only to discover that I had fairly high tension in the right eye. They call it "hypertonie oculaire". I was seriously advised to take rest & we went to our village "Gorbio" in south of France. We stayed & worked there for about 2½ months. Alas the tension of the eye is still around 29 where as the normal is 18 - (this has nothing to do with the blood tension) I am informed that if it continues, it will be wiser to undergo an operation. Needless to say that we got very scared & decided to take care of this problem here. Hence after considerable thought we decided to cancel our trip to India this winter.

I have also postponed my Paris exhibition & have been living a very quiet life. Gorbio has been a real boon & I thank providence that we acquired it at the right time. It did me such a lot of good to be away from the agitation of the Parisian life. But then news of war came & we were anguished, listened on to the Radio & searched all the newspapers for every possible news.

Yes, the European press has been most unfavourable to India in the beginning. But later the tone changed - but very slowly. I think now our prestige is higher than ever before & the main reason is the decision to act in Lahore region. This was a calamitous move & it would have been a catastrophe if we did not decide



to act at this stage. However the sad consequences an army action may inflict, this changed every thing. Even the general feeling here is that Indian Position is stronger now than ever before.

Also is particularly appreciated is the unity of the country as a whole.

We lived this in Gorbio - with all our being - but almost helpless. But it was a very charged anguished state. I painted a huge black painting perhaps the best of the 5 canvases I did in Gorbio, but it expresses nothing but an inner climate.

I am keen, very keen to see what you have painted after visiting the various fronts with Ram + Husain. He was here + was talking enthusiastic about your painting. I should be most keen to see the changes it brings over + to what extent the emotions help to evolve new forms without annihilating the sumi experience. There was ~~not~~ more than a good deal of war in the Sumis. But all this is so difficult to explain honestly - except to the Journalists.

Have you taken any photographs. What about Ram + Husain.

I haven't a single letter from Akbar since he left. Solange is back, but we haven't met her. I talked to Renu's mother on 'phone twice. It was agreed that he would come to the studio, but he cancelled the appointment at the last moment. No news from Corinna either.

The State Museum in Paris has bought my big



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Canvas "Summer" This is the second painting sold to the Museum of Modern Art this year. Janine too executed a big triptych which is hanging in a fashionable shop in Saint Germain des Prés. Looks splendid. We are working steadily + things are happening. My exhibition now is scheduled for April or May + may follow a few important articles that would appear - we hope - about the same time. In any case I hope to have better stuff to show.

Art activities are in full swing. The Paris Biennale was a little less interesting. The French pops are popping up + down. Thus some confusion but serious work is ~~is~~ being done. We had recently a few more excellent shows - as ever only abstracts. However nothing very big is on the horizon.

We are indeed very sad to have to postpone our trip. I was so much longing to come. But I had to take a decision. Looking at the better side, I think next year will be even better as we all could be together - Gai + Mebar will be back. I should have missed them this year.

It's cold like hell here. We are heating the apt. + also the studio. I had hoped that I would escape this winter.

Please don't be discreet about my eye problems. Besides ~~it~~ it's likely that the operation can be avoided.

I have only talked to very close friends.

Please do write. Your letters are always a delight & we are always happy to have news from home.

All our affectionate love to you & Remus

RM