

Paris - 11th December 1965

My dear Bal -

All through the year we remembered you with real affection. Some friends who visited us gave us a good deal of news + you can hardly imagine how often we talked of you. Recently Kekoo was here. He stayed with us + we have been almost ceaselessly ~~be~~ talking about our common friends. I am delighted to know he too understood + esteemed you so dearly.

He has been travelling + it seems that there are serious possibilities of bringing the exhibition of Indian Paintings from London over to Germany + Belgium. While he was ~~there~~ in Paris, we explored the possibility of a few showings in France. Naturally, this time we are taking the matter officially. We met the Indian Ambassador + Mr. Poushpaldas + they all seem enthusiastic. However, it is going to be a very difficult thing to get a suitable exhibition hall in such a short time. But it would be worth while trying.

Kekoo told us so many things about how the events grew + how you + other artists got together to help to solve problems that faced George. At La Carte. I wish you were here + we could get your narration.

On the Catalogue, I had a pleasant shock to see your painting + another remarkable one from Tyeb. Indeed we were delighted. Things are growing. The rest of the reproductions left me rather cold, but two are sufficient + the layout of the catalogue is excellent.

We sent you a card yesterday. Kekoo left in the afternoon. Our talk is still in my mind + before I get down to work, I want to write to you. I want to tell you a few things + would be delighted if you wrote back soon.

Firstly - we are not coming to India this winter. This breaks my

heart every time I think about it. I was so much wanting to come also Janine. All was set. But we had to decide annulation, as I had very serious trouble with my right eye. I have been disorient about this matter, but I will give you precise details. For the last 6 months I have fairly high tension in my right eye. They call it "Hypertonie Oculaire" an early stage of "glaucoma". I have excellent vision, ~~but~~ and no headaches. Only time and again there's a sort of fog that comes for I do not know what mysterious reason, stays for an hour or two & goes away. I am having the best medical advice that is possible here & three of the most important Ophthalmologists ~~are giving~~ have given their opinion. At present it's a treatment with Pilocarpine drops & other tablets. If these have no effect, a minor operation will be necessary. We are proceeding slowly & systematically. I am advised to be calm have as few activities as possible at least for some time. This really is the major problem as a restless man can never rest. All my life I have been either in the frying pan or the fire - and an imposed calm seems rather uncomfortable. But well I have to accept it as an imperative need - at least for a while till the rhythm changes.

So you see I had very serious reasons to change my plans. Looking at the better side of things, it gives me more time to prepare my Paris exhibition now scheduled for May '68. Also # I hope next winter, Akbar & Gai will be in Bombay. I would have missed him greatly this time.

For the last things are fine with us. Our work is growing well & there's better reception. We had again paintings acquired by the Museum of Modern Art - both Janine's & two of mine this year. Several projects are in mind, but we had overworked ourselves. Even Janine was very tired this summer - so much so that we spent $2\frac{1}{2}$ months in our village in South of France.

This in brief is our news. I hope the letter will inspire you to write. Have you any plans of coming this winter to Zurich. You must come with your wife so that both can enjoy the trip. And you should try & give an exhibition this time.

Both Janine & I send you both our fondest love -
Bonne nuit Bonne nuit Janine

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