

Paris, 13th Jan 1965

My dear Krishna,

The new year is there, & I hope, I will not let another day pass without writing to you. My letter has long been delayed & heaps of events keep on accumulating.

Firstly please receive our warmest wishes & greetings. We hope that the year has started well & will reserve for us all peace, happiness & quiet passion for work. Indeed immense satisfaction resides in a constant discovery of this activity.

Your letter reached us in time. I am happy to know that your exhibition has gone so well. I am inclined to agree with you now regarding Kumar. He has the flair & the initiative of what we call rightly here "un Marchant de Tableaux". The other people running galleries in India seem ~~to~~ muddle headed & inactive. I could not like Ran Kumar & his attitudes - neither in Delhi nor here when I saw him several times. His mother is a different person - I am inclined to think. But the essential fact is that we are living in a constantly changing world, & people & even situations evolve in a most unexpected manner. The most one can do is to be attentive & observe life to the best of one's ability.

I am looking forward to our next trip to India which I hope will be for Nov. 65. As the usual, I should plan that we will stay $5\frac{1}{2}$ months & that there will be less worries than in 1959. I am sure Janine will enjoy this trip.

that we will work hard & show what we do during the period. It's indeed great fun to release the first impact spontaneously & later work on the material collected for months.

Yes. My own show here has been a success beyond all my expectations. In a period of & a very acute crisis - it's good to have more than half the exhibition sold - a fairly good press - another painting bought by the Museum of Modern Art. I have for the first time a 4 column review in the Paris-Press - & the art journals have well covered up the ~~general~~ exph. this time. After a month's rather social life - the usual cocktails & dinners, I'm again back to work. The next showings will be fixed up in a few weeks, but I will certainly show again in Paris in November before taking off for India.

As I had well foreseen, the London exhibition of "Indian Paintings Today" has become a two-man-show. I was sure & I had warned George Butcher when he was here. I regretted that he did not appreciate my frank but friendly opinion. I am certain that these things are manipulated by Souza & Chandra, & undoubtedly as they are, every manifestation is deliberately planned to their advantage. All that I had demanded ^{from} George was that there should be a real confrontation of the work of the Indian painters & there should be in relation to presentation & space, no favouritism. The experience of the Sal. one show was far too bitter to forget. The same thing has happened again & the 5 painters exph. has 25 paintings by Souza, 50 drawings & prints by Chandra, 5 by Hussain & Tyeb & 4 by Samant.

This, of course - I am aware - in spite of George. I am yet not in possession of the details. A letter from George to Akbar - vague though it was, revealed complications in the relations with the Art Council. Nothing was clear though & we hiked again

the show will be postponed. As we are, we certainly would not have participated if the Art Council would have tried to by-pass George. But well I never heard from them & it is only recently that my mother-in-law gave me some details of the show & the pretace of Archer.

You see Krishen, if I am giving importance to this event, it's only because I was hoping that Gai, Samant, Yon, Akbar & I will be properly represented & that for the first time there could be a real confrontation. This would have certainly effected the overdone & false Chandra-Somea myth. Nothing can stand the power of pure pictorial statements & I personally believe that there are sufficient people in London who would have enjoyed & accepted what we have to say. Indian painting in London is a different thing from Indian painting today. As in Mexico, in the past a hell of a lot of nonsense was written to praise the "socialist & realists." Writing on such matters is simple as it is on the pseudo-religions, journalistic & sexual illustrations. One can link up everything with Indian Philosophy. But what about the validity of vision - which in painting must be intensely pictorial.

The opportunity is lost. I am all the more sorry as I was informed that George was collecting paintings & almost 30 paintings were on the list. Also there was to be a section of folk art. Here too I foresaw the failure of the show. What is needed today is not a large manifestation, but a confrontation of the best & the most vital in contemporary Indian painting today. Just say ten painters represented by ~~ten~~^{ten} paintings each.

I am glad ^{at least} Samant was there with four canvases. I am sure it will make people think.

Let me know more details & the new plans as I am sure

only one man Tamayo
blew of the myth.

you know much more about this than me or Ak. Hen.

I am so happy that Tyeb is in Delhi & can live & work. Also is great pleasure to see that ~~Paul~~ Paul Fentons has bought one of his paintings. It's formidable that you people meet every interesting person who comes to India. I was delighted to know details of the visit of Pauley to India from Akbar. You never told what you all talked about, but Akbar gave a fine description how he did the 'démocratie' for the play that was presented in Bombay. He has an exhibition on with only two canvases & prints. Paintings are good - I do not care for the prints.

The poets are having a bad time. Their influence has been great everywhere & the ideas are so quickly picked up & used commercially. But the movement does not seem to hold & with reflection, the first impressions of enthusiasm seem to disappear. All this is, as was expected. So let's all try to work consistently & steadily. Happily there is a greater stabilisation in the art world here - but all this is too early to say - as so many complicated things are all mixed up together.

So when are you coming. You must pass through Paris, stay with us - even if it is your week-end as usual.

My show is extended till end Jan.

Sahgal has managed at least his show of sculpture in the Museum of Modern art. Crafty fellow & then Indo-French relations on a sort level. Opening on 15th Jan.

Many other things are there, but I will end this long letter. Please do write & sharp. Give my best & friendly greetings to George & to Tyeb. You can show them this letter. Ask them also to write.

Once again best for the new year & all our fondest love
to you & Renu -
as always PMA