

S.H. RAZA
101, RUE DE CHARONNE
2, CITÉ DU COUVENT
75011 PARIS
TÉL. 43.70.97.64

PARIS, 7th December, 1985.

My dear Ram,

I am delighted to know about the Kalidas Award to you. This well deserved recognition is a tribute to your silent, solitary & persistent work. You have been all through involved in your quest, which in itself is a great satisfaction, but its nice that appreciation also comes from the society you live in. You are surely asked to compile an exhibition in Bharat Bhawan in Feb next year in Bhopal, which I hope I also can visit. In the mean time this letter is to greet you with heartfelt congratulations, to you, as also the committee which has revealed understanding & perception.

With the three exhibitions running parallel here, I had little time to breathe. The Rue Berryer show has been well received. There is an overall appreciation & the press has covered it very well. Several reviews big & small have appeared, radio & television programmes, & we are awaiting the film of Patric Carabé. Lina Nahmias has already a press book of 20 photostack pages which look impressive & which will be sent to all the participants after the exhibition. Some articles are prominent others simple mentions, but its quite a lot in a city where press is so difficult. As it is our exhibition is one of the most commented of the art events of the Indian Year - apart from "Mahabharata" of Peter Brook. Michel Truch in agreement with Delhi has extended the exhibition till 16th December 85.

Mrs Pupul Jayakar visited the show last week. Everyone here is impressed. "L'Inde, ça bouge", they say. I am delighted as I had full confidence in our work & I have been repeatedly saying that Indian Contemporary painting is extremely vital - not only in

the national context, but in the international context also. After the success in London, here we are appreciated in Paris & the next exhibitions in New York & Washington will surely pave way to forming opinion. This is a good start, but I am confident, we will do ~~but~~ better if a cross-section of the best is ~~and~~ one day compiled & presented. "Indian Contemporary painting is one of the most vital aspects of India today" - I have repeatedly said this.

I ran into Magbool Hussain yesterday at the Indian Trade Exhibition where he is doing a large panel: Some 4 x 10 meters which he hopes to finish in 3 days before going to New York to attend the exhibition of Hermitage Collection from 9th. This exhibition at Grey Gallery seems to be well organised, with a catalogue etc and will surely draw attention. I received an invitation which carries my painting in colour, & a telegram from the Director inviting me, but alas I will not be able to leave Paris at present - more so with my forthcoming visit to India... God willing!

I had a long talk with Hussain, we lunched together & I took him over to the rue Bonyer Show as also to my own exhibition at Galerie PARAT - where I am showing 35 canvases - "15 years of painting" 1971-1985. My present work leaves no one indifferent, but I felt that our approach to painting is so different at present, & Hussain's comment of his decorative panel - "with horse & women", seemed thoughtful & silent. Anyway we had a fine time together & I was happy to show him my latest works - which have, in any case, received a most warm & enthusiastic ~~and~~ reception both with public & press.

To thank Troch & CNAP, I am ~~throwing~~ throwing a dinner party with the artists, Lina & Paisia on Saturday 14th just before the exhibition closes on 16th. But nothing as disturbing as these vernissages & exhibitions & travels. And I am longing to get down to work.

And more so, I am longing to come over - as planned on the 23rd January '88 straight to Delhi. I hope my tickets, come in time, so that I have some breathing space, but visit Bombay & Mandla & be back to Delhi again on 14th Feb for 10 days.

So much for today. Do write. Once again, affectionate love & regards to you & Vinla -
As ever - NDA