

S.H. RAZA

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75011 PARIS

TÉL. 370-97-64

Paris, May 4, 1983,

My dear Akbar,

Herewith enclosed a copy of the letter from FIAC. We won't have the stand this year. It was impossible to see Geavis, in spite of letters & telephone calls. He has closed his gallery to public & meets only on appointments. The messages are recorded & replies are given to only those who seem of interest to them.

There may be many reasons. Firstly, they are certainly heavily booked up for this 10th anniversary. Then probably the politics of the art world & the haute-finance play a part. Also they do not know contemporary Indian Painting & they do not know what is coming up in 1985. But I had wished this had worked out so that we had some concrete results of ~~our~~ our own efforts like the Indian Cultural Festival.

I met Mrs. Jayakar a fortnight back. She was in Paris & asked to meet me. The meeting lasted about half an hour at the Ambassador's residence. It seems that dates are fixed up for several exhibitions - ancient-art at the Grand Palais, Textiles at the Musée des arts décoratifs, theatre etc. There are doubts about the Contemporary Indian Painting. Initially it was agreed that it will be shown at the Musée Georges Pompidou. It seems that Mr. Jack Lang, Minister of Culture, has proposed the new Complex at Villette where the entire exhibition can be housed at a stretch. I expressed my disappointment. These new museums or exhibition halls will not be ready before 1986 & then they are not centrally situated. Besides the Prestige of Pompidou museum is considerable & would have been good for Indian painting.

Mrs. Jayakar has asked me to write to her & give my opinion on the various subjects I talked about. I will try to do, though I am

very reluctant to get in to any organisational work. When I do it, I do it with all my might, but then I am not mademoiselle - & my excessive nervousness makes everything complicated. However at this stage it's only a question of giving her information which can be useful in the context of the forthcoming exhibition.

I haven't seen Jean or Krishna Pibaud yet. Mrs Tripathi of the Indian Embassy keeps me informed. News from Grenoble are not very encouraging. You know that Pierre Gaudibert, the director ^{of the museum}, was extremely keen to get the exhibition there. The municipality that was in place so far, lost the election & the whole art projects are being changed. Besides in France, on the whole, problems are everywhere particularly in economy. After 3 devaluations, the Franc is still weak, & though I understand nothing about it, I know that pessimism is looming large everywhere.

We plan to leave for Gorbio on the 30th of June. We will stay there till end of September. Please note the address: RUE DU CHATEAU, GORBIO, 06500 MENTON, France. Tel: (93), 57 48 47.

If you come again, do try to visit us. In the meantime keep us informed. I will like to end this letter on a bright note. Mani Kaul's film was presented at the Musée J. Pompidou. I reached in time. There was a long Q. 250 people. Before I could come to the Kiosque, all tickets were sold. I made such a row I had to see the film on Mukhi Bopha. They let me in. It was grand. The hall was full 180 people. Alas the subtitles in English ~~were~~ made the film even more incomprehensible, but I rejoiced having seen it. On the whole the film festival has been very well reviewed - some 120 films from India were projected.

Do write, when you find time. Inform Bal & Tyeb. I have written to Khushboo & Kekoo -
Love from us both - 