

Paris, 9th March 1965.

My dear Krishna,

Let me start with the big news: Akbar has at last the invitation from New York. Porter McCray's letter announces the decision & a further letter followed from his office with the forms to be filled & sent back. So we feasted this all on a Cassoulet lunch & talk which lasted till 5 in the afternoon. Hope Akbar has written to you already as the letter arrived last Friday. I am writing all the same - as my letter to you is long due.

We all rejoice that he has the possibility of taking this trip. I am sure it will do him good. The news came rather unexpectedly now as we were all getting uncertain about the grant. Akbar himself is very happy & so is Solange. New York art world is going to be very exciting this fall. Many things are going to take place. It will be good to have Akbar there & have all the news. In ~~any~~ any case - the summer - will find you all together. Gai - Ak & you + who knows - Bal. I must write to him - but by God you have all to be back in India in winter - as our own plans to come are really very serious this time.

Your letters to me & to Akbar reached us in time & we are all enjoyed having your good news. I was happy that you did write the letters to the Press in London & in Delhi. You are perhaps the only one who acted. It was necessary. I wish I could do the same - I would have also written to the art Council. But writing is a job for me. It takes so much

+ I have invariably to sit with a dictionary. Besides - experience tells me that one has to use the weapon one has to have positive results. Why write a poor letter. But I had seen the game more clearly than any one & my only defence was the 5 paintings I had kept ready for this show. I wonder how the situation stands now.

I agree to the proposal to show in India. in team. Not so much to match or contrast against ~~80s~~ - this is not worth the trouble - but because there are elements which bring us all together & we can present a serious exhibition without false show or publicity. Plan it for March 1966. We hope to arrive end of November 65 & will have a few months to travel around & work. Akbar's & Gai's paintings could be flown from New York - I am sure the foundation will cooperate. Besides this we must seriously consider starting an Institute of Contemporary Art - choose another name if you like - & I and Akbar want you to be the General Secretary. This will be a sort of sacrifice we expect from you - for the good cause - also from Husain who should be asked to be the President. I am sure Gai, Bad, Ram Tyeb & other friends will agree. Or may be they will give other new ideas. But an institute of this kind seems to be a realistic idea at this stage. It can be effective as an artists organisation it can organise exhibition, have its library, exhibition hall & even an art school run on most modern lines. Both I & Akbar discussed the matter & we hope to talk to you when you come here. As every local conditions are so important that from a distance one ^{can} never be very sure.

We are all very anxious to meet you. Let us have the dates of your arrival & of your New York show. Is

Remy coming? It will be grand seeing her again. Many things are happening here, though a general confusion prevails in the art world. We are working full blast. My next show in Paris will be for November again this year - unless I show again in Germany - but all this depends on how I work.

We have news that Tyeb had a show in Bombay & sold very well. Has he been painting. He never writes & so also Sai. Your catalogue with photographs was a delight to have. I liked the reproductions & am happy that the exhibition went off so well. Shall we see some originals this time - These canvases with thin paint told so well.

11th March 1965.

The letter has been delayed, but ambitions, I had other things in mind. I wanted to give you more news about us, about Paris, but I would rather wait till you come. Akbar said you are coming by end of March. Please let us know in advance. We have really no plans except a short trip to Gorbio from 16th to 26th April. But even this is not sure.

More in my next. Our love to you & Remy -

Boy

RAM