

Paris, 9th May, 1961.

My dear Penn,

It is since a long time that I have been wanting to write to you. Your first letter was most welcome & we were so happy to have your news from you. I was also happy that the 9 square inches of paint meant something to you. Is it not that bits of reds & oranges can produce strange union, as a small heart can contain infinite love, an atom immense strength. It's a direction to be pursued - all is not to the point - yet ~~but~~ let's hope it will be one day.

Yes. It was grand having Krishen here. We talked as ever endlessly of big & small things, we <sup>was</sup> most happy that his stay & work in the States has been so successful. We missed you all the more this time. For us the big pleasure was his 2 large Sumi paintings. I really liked them & precisely for the vitality of mass relationship & space coherence which have preoccupied me for several years now. The only question I ask is that inside of the fact that the whole operation in the act of painting is watched & deliberately conducted, the paint is untouched by hand. When it is a foreign element creeps in. The touch is visible. It's just an observation & I have no comment or criticism to make. On the contrary I foresee further evolution of sumi - or rather the sumi-idea. It will be fascinating to watch.

Here both Janine & myself have been working day & night for the last three weeks trying to fix up my studio. We are yet not at the end of our pain, but



it is going to be nice. We have done everything ourselves - plastering, cement, electricity & furniture. It is a vast room with four vast walls, thick wood beams, two big windows. I am so happy that at last I have my studio, that it has a warm atmosphere & that I have the possibility of arranging it as I like.

Ofcourse, I haven't painted a thing yet - but I really mean to get started with vengeance.

How about Krishan? Is he painting already. Has Ram come to Delhi. I have written to him asking him to see Mrs Pushpa Chopra. If Ram has not come yet, please ask Krishan to see her. And please ask them to write. I will like to have news of their work & the news of the art world in Delhi & Bombay. What are they sending for the London Exhibition. Is there the Indian participation at the Biennale de Venise this year. I believe that Thakur Singh & others have to decide. And since every province must be satisfied, the best will be not to participate at all!

We have a few most wonderful days here. It's great pleasure to see the sun appear & pour its warmth. We are longing to come to India, but will have to wait till next winter. It's a few way off, but well, hard work is in store here & the next months will see us all very busy.

I will end this short letter. Enjoyed writing it. Please write or ask Krishan to write. Janine & I, we send you both our fondest love.

Srs - PMA