

as from New York.

2nd Dec. 1962.

My dear Raza,

Ever since I received your letters I have been thinking of you & I would have written to you much earlier if it had not been for some rather pressing commitments - main one being to paint enough for the Gallery 63 show. I landed in five paintings to the Gallery on the 28th and Kenn and I left for New London on the 29th and I am writing this letter to you from there. We return to New York tomorrow & I suspect that I will not be able to complete this here & will do so as soon as I get back. I was asked to come to this College to attend their Fine Arts Week & I have been lecturing - a great deal better than the performance in California! I have also had an exhibition of my drawings. It looked well, even if I say so.

3rd Dec. As I suspected I wasn't able to continue this letter in New London and I shall write it properly now that we are back & I have no immediate pressures to divert my attention. Of course there is the nagging and rather horrible feeling of the trouble with the Chinese which as you say prevents one from concentrating - but as this whole thing is going to be a long drawn out affair - according to Painsilgi - one may as well get used to the idea and start living with it from now on. As with you and Akbar, this has worried me no end and even though there are no immediate hostilities, one cannot take it for granted that there won't be any in the future. I am not

at all certain if our Government will start hostilities again soon or after a considerable build up when it thinks that it is in a position of strength. Whatever it is one thing is certain. Our economic advancement will suffer and we will continue to have to pay for a large defence establishment. There are many imponderables which will have to be taken into account - at least they will exert pressures and influences.

If we can come to an honourable settlement with Pakistan over Kashmir & have Pak. as a friend it will be to our mutual advantage. I think that this may not be as easy as optimistic people think, mainly because of the great distrust which mutually exists between the two countries. The educated & more reasonable people on both sides are relatively few. I'm sorry to say. Can you imagine that we are considered by Pakistan as Enemy No. 1, that they are now saying that they have nothing against Communism! Secondly, the split between Russia and China may prove to be very significant. We must continue as a neutral nation (ie taking help from both the West & from Russia) & it seems that just now it is a position which the West also favours. If there is a big split & it continues to widen, China will find herself without petrol which is supplied to it by Russia. On account of all these factors I think that the Chinese decided to withdraw. It was not out of generosity for us. Basically, I do not think that China wanted to or wants to, conquer India. The tract of land which it claims in Ladakh has never clearly belonged to either side, or at least it wasn't actively claimed - so there are genuine

grounds for a dispute - No one could however agree that the method adopted by the Chinese was justified. As far as a sense of humiliation is concerned over the defeats we have suffered in this affair - I think that the damage of our fighting men has never been in question. I feel angry and deceived by our politicians who had no business to make such a lot of noise about our strength when they knew about our unpreparedness. It seems that for once the opinion in the country has galvanised & even the communists have openly attacked China. Both you and Akbar asked what we should all do as good citizens - should all of us join the army, or start painting posters or making defence equipment? I ask you if this situation is going to continue for a long long time, then are we prepared (or is it even right to consider it so) to stop being artists and become soldiers? If the answer is in the affirmative then logically there should be no artists existing during a period of prolonged crisis. If a national call is made & our age group is required to join for a period of two or three years, then there is no question as to what we should do. Since our political and economic destinies are determined by our leaders who are democratically chosen, let them say what is required and wanted. I do not believe that art is an activity of a luxurious society & can be dispensed with in a moment of crisis. On the contrary, it must continue as an activity which reaffirms our values in life. I agree that we should raise funds as much as we can and as fast as we can. We must be careful however not to bungle things in our haste. You may most certainly

include the two paintings you have of mine in the show you are organising in Paris for the purpose of raising funds. If Krish One is willing, as I'm sure she will, agree to releasing the painting she has of mine you can include that also. You can tell her from me that I will replace it with another of her choice. In addition if you want one of my scrolls I will certainly send one - only be sure to let me know the date by which it should arrive. Also write to Tyeb to send a painting. Regarding the exhibition which you suggested should be organised here for the purpose of collecting funds. I have made the necessary inquiries and these are my findings:

1. Mrs Krasne has left the Gallery 63 I believe and Mrs. Girst is the person who is in practical control of affairs. She was is a most difficult woman to deal with - I assure you she is much much worse than your dear friend Kamehara and having received the paintings from India after paying more than \$1000 in freight etc. she will be most reluctant to part with them. She doesn't have any particular feelings for India but she does have a great feeling for money! This gallery will only be able to hang 122 or 23 paintings out of a total 65 or 70. What I think will be arranged eventually is that the paintings will be sent on a travelling exhibition or displayed here by the ~~Contem~~ Institute of Contemporary Arts - ~~at~~ The Gallery, that is 63. will take its commission on any sales effected.
2. We - ie the artists could do either of the two things, or both if we are so inclined & agreed upon.
(a) We could donate the entire money we receive on the sales to the fund.

(6) We could organise an exhibition, or a series of exhibitions after the I.C.A. has had its exhibition and announce it specifically for the purpose of collecting funds. This exhibition would be organised by the committee which has already been formed for this purpose. It ~~is~~ comprises our Consul General, Sunil Roy, who is an old friend of mine - Mr. Gopala Kerson, ~~Mr.~~ Abe Weisblatt, Paul Sherbert and a whole string of ex Ambassadors to India. If an exhibition is organised by this crew you can rely on its success.

I have another idea - If you & Akbar are willing & can get a few others in Paris to agree to this plan I'm certain it will work. Plan is that the three of us & I could collect paintings of Hussain & others which are with Abe Weisblatt, could have an exhibition of our own. Our Consul Gen. would I'm sure be able to arrange transportation of these from Paris. What do you say to this? I think that this would be much better than waiting for all the conditions to be fulfilled in Plans 1+2. Question is have you at least 5 or 6 paintings each for such an exhibition? Please do consult Akbar immediately & let me know. Also show him this letter. I did write to him but rather hastily & I'm afraid that I may not have made myself clear & may even have said things with an emphasis which I didn't really intend.

This whole business with China is confusing to say the least of it and the reason for writing all this is as much to ~~clear~~ clarify issues in my own mind as to tell you what I'm thinking. Ask Akbar to write to me too. He is the one person whose views & values I

consider as real and meaningful.

I called at Gallery 63 today and inquired if I could help in the selection & hanging of the paintings. I was told "No" - They don't want any interference! Quite frankly I don't think much of this Gallery. They have opened with 2 thoroughly poor exhibitions & I think that ours is going to be a pretty good one - let's see how it goes. The bloody women wouldn't even let me see the other paintings and I suppose I shall see them on the opening day like anyone else. Incidentally George Butcher - the Indian Expert - has written the introduction! And being George Butcher he has also sent a couple of water colours by his pal Avinash - I haven't seen them yet. Lakshmi Sapare has & told me about them! He has been here & we have talked endlessly. He is an interesting fellow - just a little too sure of himself and his opinions and like all fanatics for the History of Art, he is a veritable blood hound for tracing influences. This activity is very well & good but can result in losing the values of art. Anyway he is a stimulating fellow & I'm going to the Museum of Modern Art with him on Thursday & later will attend a lecture with him given by Professor Goldwater. - I have been seeing Samant also. I'm quite impressed by him and his achievements though I think that he is inclined to make a method out of his painting - but his sensibility is fine. Strangely enough the Chinese invasion has left him completely untouched. It didn't affect him one way or the other. What do you make of that? - Well dear Boy - don't be depressed too much by events and the passing hour - the temporary changes in fashions - the band wagoners will change but the serious ones will & must pursue their own independent vision. I'm pretty sickened by Hard Edged and Pop Art. Fond love to you & Janine from us both - I do write - it helps both you and me. As always, Krishna