

Paris, 15th January 1975.

My dear Bal.

The postal strike paralysed communications here for over two months. Letters have started coming. Your two letters posted in October reached me about 10 days back.

It's the same reason for my not writing to Tyeb. Some 50 million letters have been awaiting delivery - & yet every thing is delayed. I did not know Tyeb's getting the award in Cannes. The news was conveyed to the Indian Embassy by diplomatic bag - & the Cultural Consul informed Delhi. Later Cannes rang me up but the strike was on, & I thought it was futile to write.

Tyeb's getting the award is entirely on the merit of his work, though I was to an extent responsible for getting him invited at Cannes Festival & also at the Menton Biennale.

Well. You are great Balji. Walla tera jawab mahin. ... I am delighted to know this super professional activity of yours - meeting the Prime Minister on behalf of the artists - bhai dos. My compliments also go



to them as they placed their confidence in your objectivity & fair play. Let's hope that the problems with the academy get straightened out now & that a massive participation of the leading artists will be possible to make the Indian section of the Delhi Triennale a real strong one.

I will be keen to know how it goes. I have just received the invitation to send paintings before end of Dec '74. I don't think I can do miracles. Please keep me informed of the situation.

I am sorry we could not meet Moti. He did ring up from Germany fixed a date to come to Paris & never came up. I awaited the whole day. Happily I did not book the Hotel room - in fact I ~~do~~ never do - because friends never come at the fixed date. Now knowing that he is a dear friend of yours & of the artists - I feel sorry indeed that he did not come to Paris. I would have certainly fixed him up near the house so that he enjoys his Paris stay. Please ask him what happened - & in any case he should come again.

On the other hand we had a real good meeting with Dicky & Maisie Patney who came to Paris. Dicky has a face that radiates happiness. He is direct, unaffected, unpretentious which indeed is very pleasant. We made for him a plan to go to south - right up to Gorkha, which I am sure they will have followed. Since then there's no news of them & probably they are already in India as planned.



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Now about us. Happy. We are working + producing. As ever the 4 summer months in Gorbio are very stimulating. Since arrival in Paris 20th of October, we were all the time at the Studio in rue de Charonne, where we could acquire another room but which had to be redone again. It meant 2 months hard work with cement plaster + painting + lighting + heating. On the 18th December we had a friendly gathering + the two studio looked beautiful particularly the new one with bright clean walls + paintings + collage. We will use the studio to work + the new one to present our paintings - which ultimately will help.

The crisis here seems serious - but our plans continue. Janine is showing in Mai in Paris - I will show in Italy in March April + Mai - + in Norway in October. So this is going to be a busy year. In November we plan to come to India for a stay of 3 to 4 months. As usual hope I can show in Bombay in Feb or March '76 - but this time I will bring my large canvases. So boy - prepare yourself. We mean to make a hell or heaven? of your life when we come - because I know how bored you all feel in the present Bombay climate!

Tyeb said in his letter that you + Akbar can take the responsibility of composing a fine section of Indian Paintings which can come to France. I have already an O.K. of Emile Marzé for the next Biennale de Menton - Summer 1976. He will like to have 5 Indian artists each represented by 3 large



Canvases. It's preferable that the Govt does not come into picture - but this is your look out. We need first class work + you have one year's notice - the Biennale starts 1st of July. The paintings have to be transported by your care <sup>+ expense</sup>, a catalogue printed in India + if possible <sup>^</sup> a poster. Let me know what your feeling is. If you would like to make it a bigger group - I will welcome + I think Marzè will agree too. Apart from this we should try at least once in our lives that this exhibition the best that has ever come to France could be shown in Paris. I will like that we get or try to get the Maeght Fondation interested + the Centre National d'Art Contemporain in Paris. I will give you addresses + names of the directors in case you feel that the idea ~~has~~ is worth while following. But then all the best of our friends ~~and~~ should join forgetting our frictions + sad past stories. If the Govt has to ~~come into~~ be approached, maybe I.C.C.R could be the best - but will they let you or Akbar handle the project. If its too much of a bother, will you consider the smaller project of the Menton 'Biennale' with 4 or 5 artists.

In the meanwhile I will like to have Gai invited to the International Festival of Painting in Cagnes this summer. Gai alone with two or 3 major canvases - so that the French hear the voice of silence. You see

Bal, Cagnes + Menton are slowly growing into major art centers. Venice Biennale does not exist. Paris Biennale is entirely the new generation completely influenced by the American



Art tendencies. Cognos, Vence, Menton & Nico ≡  
are now receiving more & more really interesting  
critics, collectors & art dealers & on the Côte d'Azur  
the ambience is more human, more friendly,  
& not like the mad rush of Paris or New York.  
Besides I have now fairly good contacts with the  
organisers who have in the past few years  
discovered that contemporary Indian painting exists  
& is vital. Vivanaadham, Narendra, Narayanan  
& the now Tyeb have made a real good impact -  
& with a little understanding we can follow  
up & present the best that is available today.  
Last year putting Tyeb & Santosh created  
comparisons - Sunny country has only 8 sq metres  
of wall space & may be Gai alone with 2 or 3  
canvases will respond well to the austerity of the  
year 1975 - ~~it~~ of course if the Festival Secretariat  
agrees.

We will look forward to our visit to  
India in November when I will explain the  
details. I will like to have your opinions &  
may be we could chalk out a plan so that  
you, Akbar, Krishen, Ram & Khatkar - may  
be others of interest participate in rotation at

+ the year convenient to every one. So think it  
over + you should plan a trip to France during  
the summer of 1976 - with the exhibition. It  
will be wonderful having you in Gorbio - a  
small village - but we love it.

The news of the radio announce again that  
the postal strikes may start again. My letter is  
long - though I have millions of more things to  
tell you. So let it be enough for today. We are  
having indeed a busy - hard - rough life.

The financial crisis is real - + there's a serious  
threat of another war. Ofcourse it's so dangerous  
a solution in the present context that it will  
ultimately be avoided. Else they can "phataug"  
the world for their love of money or power. Lets  
hope that wisdom prevails.

And let's make our plans. I desperately  
wish to come to India now + we must make  
it this winter. Move in only next. Do  
write + tell me ~~how~~ how things are with you,  
in Delhi + how you feel about showing in  
south of France next year.

With all our pure love to you Geet + Bandol

Sm - ~~MA~~