

S.H. RAZA

101, RUE DE CHARONNE

2, CITÉ DU COUVENT

75011 PARIS

TÉL. 370-97-64

Paris, 3rd May, 1983.

My dear Khorshed,

Thank you so much for your long letter dated 5th April. Since then I could talk to Rashna + Lolly both. Bernard too came to Paris on work + spent 2 days with us. His father's death was another sad event. We had long talks. It is comforting to know that the friends in Bombay have paid a mourning tribute to Rudi + that efforts will be made to do something concrete in his memory.

However the loss is there. I am not yet out of my depression, which in fact started weeks before Rudi passed away. Was it a presentiment or just the effect of natural human laws. I do not know. I have just taken to a large canvas which has given me strength + a will to work.

Yes. We must mark the 20th year of the Gallery Chemould. It's time things are done + they are done to the best of our abilities. In my opinion artists + gallery do a team work + assume specific functions. It is an association of common convictions + can work out to the advantage of the artists + the art dealers both. I am inclined to think that relationship based on mutual understanding + friendship did exist between you + the artists you have shown - at least in most cases. The common involvement has stood the test of time. All this can be projected in two or three exhibitions to celebrate the 20th anniversary. But the exhibitions must be most carefully planned + catalogues printed with quality colour reproductions + texts.

It is difficult to advise what exactly could be done, particularly in relation to the choice of artists. Whatever you will do, criticism will be there. However, you will have to choose. It the Jehangir Art Gallery

is
be available for at least two weeks, may be the first exhibition could
be of 3 or 4 or 5 artists with 10 major works each. For the
second week there could be 6 to 10 artists represented by 5 important
works. A common catalogue can be done for both the exhibitions
with preface, opinion of the artists, critics or art lovers + of course your own
point of view. An art gallery is an act of faith. The artists have to do
their work of creation, the art dealers have to project the work, promote
it + take care of the material aspects which the artists cannot do. These
exhibitions can narrate the process briefly, but must show the vitality
of contemporary Indian painting today. Your catalogue must be a reference
to the most difficult art connoisseurs in the world - the museums, the international
art festivals etc. So be most careful in choosing the artists, the fewer
the better. And get a designer to do the layout. Let the painters be informed
so that they give their best works.

Of course I will give all my co-operation. I want to have a place
that is due to me in this anniversary, only I fear I cannot think in terms of
having a vast individual show at the Jehangir Gallery. My plan to come to
Bombay in Jan. Feb. 1984 is very serious. What I wanted, was to show
at the Gallery Chemould for 10 days, ~~in~~ on the 1st floor, in a small way, with
small canvases which I can bring along. And may be I show in the group some
larger paintings at the Jehangir Gallery. My Triennale paintings are still in Delhi
but I have asked Richard to send them back. Anyway think it over + we
can talk it about all this when you come here next summer. Radhika, Baulers
+ we all have decided to meet in Gorbio - So take the French visa in advance.

Fate has turned thumbs down on our showing in the Grand Palais in Paris.
I have just got the letter - copy enclosed. See how difficult things are here. But
there are new openings + I am convinced that nothing can stop contemporary
Indian painting to emerge in a big way in Europe now.

The Indian films have been shown at the Pompidou Museum + have
drawn large crowds. The Dagar brothers are back again. Om Prakash Chomasia will
play on Santons. Lalit Ahmed on Tahla, in Maison de Culture + there are dances
+ other programmes. India is in the air, but still difficulties + oppositions subsist. I
talked to Mrs Jayakar a fortnight back, we have to plan the 1985 Cultural India
Festival in France with great care. So much for today. Keep us informed
Send any news or reviews on Hindi or the art world in Bombay.

Find love to you + Kekoo from us both - Over - 