

Paris, 14th Nov. '62

My dear Krishna,

Thanks so much for your letter. I am glad that the dispatch to Padma has been done. I am glad I am able to do what I think I should do. I did write to her & ~~to~~ to my mother soon after arrival.

On 31st Oct. we regained grey Paris. We were happy. Sure! Paris did not look small. In fact we realise all the more its charm & a strange inner life. However - all the events - particularly from home - and the air of business of Paris, made us feel gloomy. In New York we hardly had time to look at newspapers. In Paris we made a start. There is general indifference, yet the Indo Chinese conflict is constantly being talked about. The press takes it up with strange irregularities. The worst thing is ~~being~~ badly informed. Emotion is a vital life element, but being sentimental is futile. Of course I met several Indian friends & tried to find out ~~to~~ how they viewed the

situation - I asked them how they understood the situation. It seems all very complicated. It seems that the problem is not the frontier only. It's far too vast. Some feel that the Chinese aim at ① - destroy the myth of Non-Violence by dragging India to war without this no hope for Communist ideas taking ground. ② force India to change its economic plan to a war footing. If things were India would have evolved differently - the basic conditions were unfavourable from their point of view. Other thesis is that they are only concerned with the frontier which they have fixed & will not advance an inch more & that everything will return to order in due time. Who knows - when the truth lies. Its heartening to know certain facts: that the whole country - at least so far - stands up as a nation & determined to fight. The treasury is full, also the blood banks, the moral excellent! The army can't even take the volunteers who are prepared to join the army. The Chinese are surprised with their Himalayan blunder.

But who knows. May be they see at a longer term & feel that the resistance is going

for the worst. I have been in the past  
so much against the academic &  
sterile abstract painting that I almost  
rejoice, so much of the poor stuff will be  
washed off. The feeble & unconvincing  
painters will quickly change - only  
to find themselves in awkward situation,  
as the last word in Non Figurative art  
is not yet pronounced.

I wish I could ~~be~~ talk to you. This  
in fact is the second letter I am writing  
since arrival. But writing is so difficult.  
One has to wait for a favorable moment.  
Or one has to labour.

I wrote to the yesterday. I gave some  
suggestions regarding Gal. 63. I wish  
you too assist in helping matters. One of  
my important concern is what they show.  
Who will select out of the stuff sent. I think  
I haven't sent a single weak painting.  
Only they are big. But they can choose 2 or  
3. What will happen to the rest - mine or  
those of others. I suggest to the that they  
in collaboration of Gal. 63 organise another  
show here if possible.

Second thing who will do the Catalogue-  
preface. I thought of Rudi. or George Butcher  
or Waldemar George. Any of the three will  
be happy to write. A good Catalogue



to be broken in course of time, that <sup>2</sup>  
the economy of the country is going to be ruined  
with a war budget in a few years time.  
I fail to understand. The only Indian I  
met here & who felt concerned is Akbar.  
He offers his services any day, but nobody  
knows if he can be an asset, nor does  
he know what he can do. The essential  
thing is that he feels the restlessness we  
know. Jean said we are sentimental & stupid  
& must only keep on painting. By God -  
there are moments when all these higher  
spheres are tasteless...

I am talking about a subject I hardly  
know. However there is a strange sense of  
humiliation - of helplessness.

Let's come back to higher spheres. The  
Parisian press here has been launching a  
formidable campaign against ABSTRACT-ART.  
The latest news announced & reaffirmed are  
that it is dead & buried. A new realistic  
art is taking birth. Whatever is written, &  
whatever is presented as new realism  
is completely stupid. J. L. - However it  
does a lot of harm. There is a general  
panic. Sales are terribly rare. Every one  
seems to be complaining. One needs to  
kitten up one's bulbs & be inured

is a must. Very objectively, I feel 3  
that my real suggestion would be that  
~~either~~ ~~to~~ Waldemar George does the preface.  
He knows all the painters is very  
well known as a critique in France &  
in Europe - very much loved & very  
much detested. He did the preface  
to the Exp. in Mulhouse where Krishan  
gave your paintings. I could approach  
him or a direct letter could be  
written to him at the address:

WALDEMAR GEORGE

54 RUE DE SEINE - PARIS 6<sup>e</sup>.

The other possibility is that you  
present the Indian painters. I am  
sure it can be more interesting than  
all the nonsense that the local  
man will write without really knowing  
the problems involved. Will you  
talk to BBe before it is late.

We have taken to work but  
with terrible distractions & most  
irregularly. Hope it is not going to  
continue. I hope also that news  
are better from home without which

it is so difficult to concentrate.

We have excellent memories of our stay. It's good to think of them - and in fact we have only been talking of them since we came. Work has to follow - but you know the process is so slow.

How is Penn. It was indeed grand knowing you both more closely & more intimately. I treasure the association. We shall look forward to your visit here. Till then please write & keep us informed of everything - including the Gal, 63 ex. Hekav was very keen to come to the New York for the show, but we all feel depressed with the Chinese invasion. It is nothing less.

✓ say it's good to hear from you both  
Fondant love to you both  
Neta

15 rue Paul Bert

Paris 11e

Johnie

to be in Paris  
at last!