

# **"My Dear Davey and Chester..."**

Transcriptions

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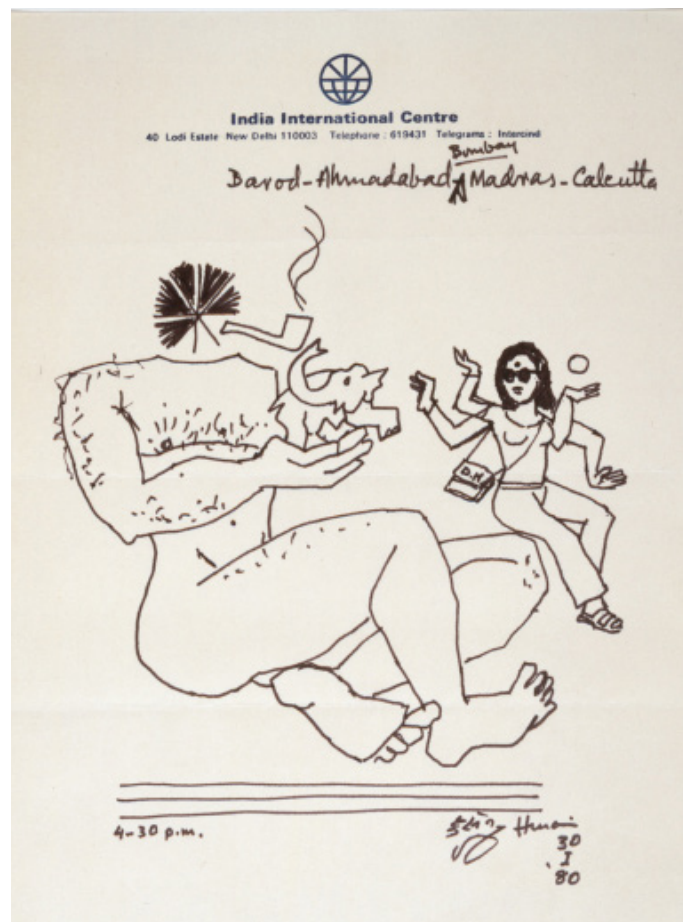
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Maqbool Fida (M.F.) Husain

1915 Pandharpur–2011 London

## Illustrated note, 1980

Ink on paper



### Bombay

Barod-Ahmadabad-^ -Madras-

Calcutta

4-30 p.m.

Maqbool Fida (M.F.) Husain

1915 Pandharpur–2011 London

## Illustrated note, 1980

Ink on paper

New Delhi

6 • II • 80

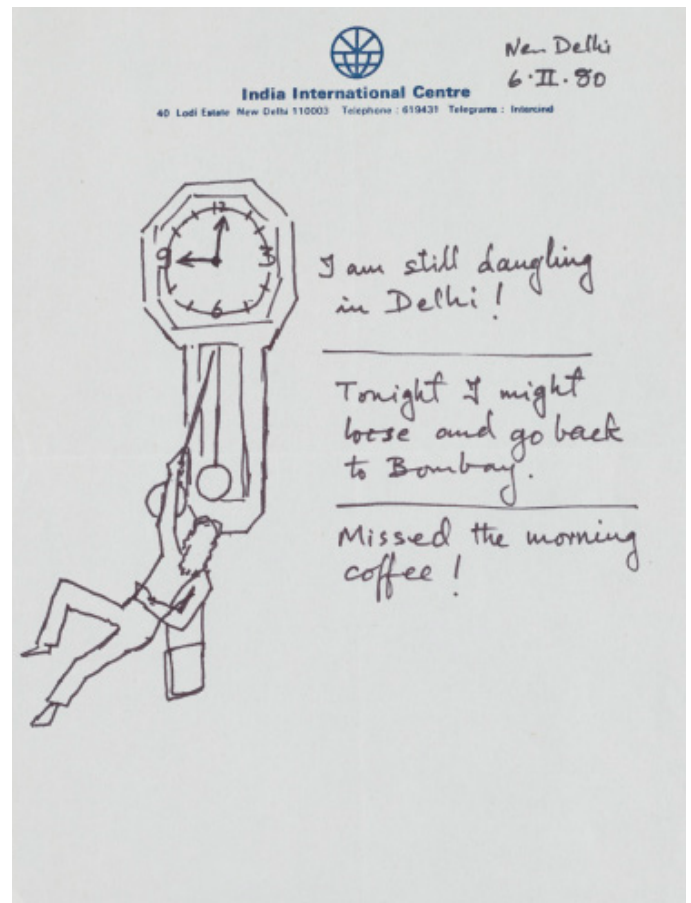
I am still dangling  
in Delhi!

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Tonight I might  
loose and go back  
to Bombay.

---

Missed the morning  
coffee!



Maqbool Fida (M.F.) Husain

1915 Pandharpur–2011 London

**Note, 1984**

Ink on paper

12 jan '84

4 p.m.

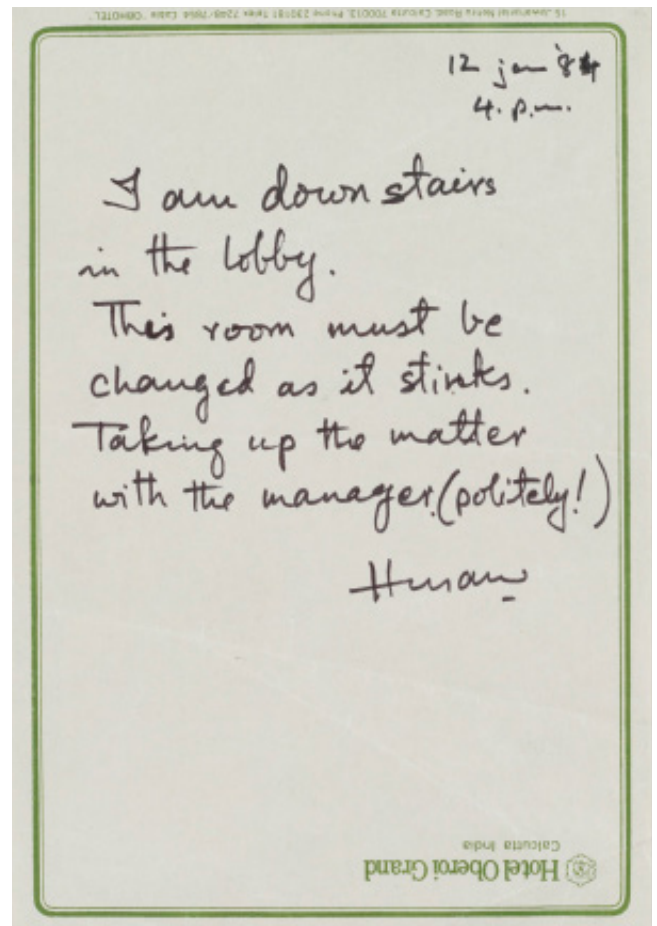
I am downstairs

in the lobby.

This room must be  
changed as it stinks.

Taking up the matter  
with the manager (politely!)

Husain





continued

THE SPYRAL-STAIRCASE TO MY LIVING-STUDIO ~~[striketrough text]~~ HAS LED ARTISTS AND FRIENDS. HUSAIN CAME UP WITH HIS TWO FRIENDS ANNU– SAJNI. HE HAD SHOWN ME HIS DOINGS IN CALCUTTA SO I HAD MINE WHAT I DID AFTER YOU HAD LEFT, BOTH OF US WERE THRILLED WITH EACH OTHERS WORK. HE HAS ASKED ME TO PACK UP THREE OF MY NEW PENCILS

Kalal (K.) Laxma Goud

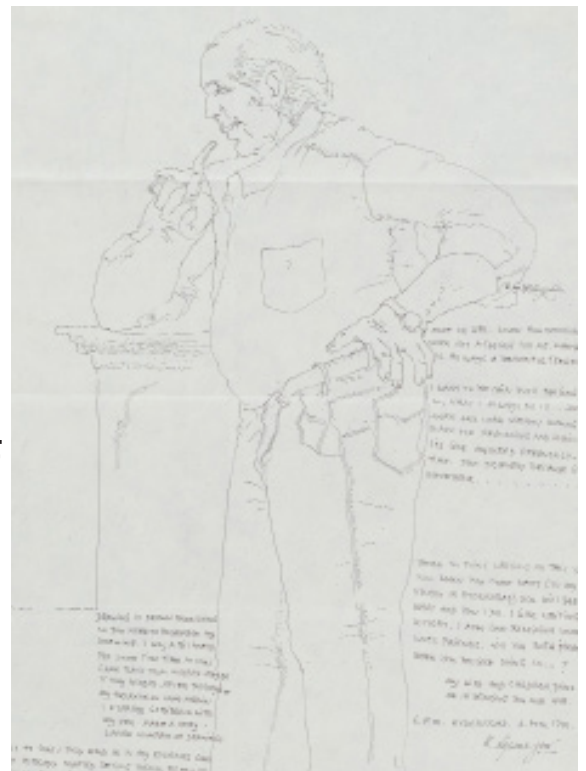
Born 1940, Nizampur

## Illustration of Chester Herwitz with note, 1981

Ink on paper

MSS 871, box 15, folder 2

DRAWING IS DRAWN FROM LIVING  
SO YOU NEED TO RESEMBLE MY  
DRAWING. I WAS A BIT LONELY  
FOR SOME TIME AFTER I  
CAME BACK FROM MADRAS. MAYBE  
IT WAS NEEDED. AFTER TWO DAYS OF  
MY RELAXATION ONCE AGAIN  
I STARTED SCRIBBLING WITH  
MY PEN. MADE A VERY —  
LARGE NUMBER OF DRAWINGS  
I WANT TO SHIFT THIS MOOD IN TO MY ETCHINGS SOON  
I HAVE ALREADY STARTED SETTING THINGS READY IN  
MY STUDIO FOR PRINTMAKING. I AM SURE A VERY  
POSITIVE TURN WILL TAKE IN PLACE IN MY WORK.  
NO, OF COURSE IT'S DIFFICULT TO PREDICT ANY SUCH





continued

MOVE IN LIFE. SOME HOW INSTITUTIONS  
WORK OUT A FEELING FOR ME. WHICH  
IS ALWAYS A BEAUTIFUL FEELING.

I WANT TO RETAIN SUCH FEELINGS  
SO, WHAT I ALWAYS DO IS . . . . JUST  
WORK AND WORK WITHOUT LOOKING  
BACK FOR REASONING AND LOGIC  
IT'S LIKE [MATURED PREGNANCY-]  
TIME. SHE [DELIVERS] BECAUSE IT'S  
[INEVITABLE] . . . . .

THERE IS NO POINT IN WRITING ALL THIS TO  
YOU. WHEN YOU COME NEXT (TO MY  
STUDIO IN HYDERABAD) YOU WILL SEE  
WHAT AND HOW I DO. I LIKE WRITING  
LETTERS. I ALSO LOVE RECEIVING  
SOME LINES FRIENDS. WIL YOU BOTH PLEASE  
WHEN YOU FEEL LIKE DOING SO . . . ?

continued

MY WIFE AND CHILDREN [JOIN]  
ME IN SENDING YOU OUR LOVE.

6. P.M. HYDERABAD. 6.FEB.1981  
K. LAXMA GOUD

Kalal (K.) Laxma Goud

Born 1940, Nizampur

## Illustration of the Herwitzes reviewing artwork and note, 1981

Watercolor and ink on paper

MSS 871, flat file 6



MY DEAR HERWITZ AND DAYANA, YOU DO  
NOT KNOW HOW HAPPY I WAS WHEN I SAW  
YOU BOTH ON THE FLOOR LOOKING AT  
MY WORK IN YOUR MADRAS ROOM. I  
AM SURE I WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE  
SEVERAL MORE DRAWINGS ON THIS  
"MAN & WOMAN"

I KNOW IT'S NOT A VERY GOOD ONE OF ME BUT I HOPE TO  
DO  
SOME NICE ONES TONIGHT. IT WAS OF COURSE TOO SHORT  
A TIME

continued

I COULD SPEND WITH YOU. BUT THIS LITTLE TIME ALSO  
MEANS A  
LOT TO ME IN LIFE. I THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN FOR THAT  
EFFECTION YOU HAVE TOWARDS MY DRAWINGS.

REMEMBER ME TO SHAMSHAD-SAHBA.

K. Laxma Goud. 24 JAN 1981

Kalal (K.) Laxma Goud

Born 1940, Nizampur

## Illustrated letter, 1990

Pencil on paper

MSS 871, box 4, folder 2



MY DEAR DAVEY, CHESTER.

HYDERABAD, AT LAST HAS COME BACK TO ITS NORMAL  
LIFE, AFTER A MONTHLONG [DISTURBANCES]  
POLITICS HAVE [DESTROYED] THE PROFILE OF THIS  
CITY KNOWN FOR ITS [HARMONIOUS] LIVING

AFTER 1947 ONE HAD NEVER SEEN SUCH SITUATION,  
INNOCENT PEOPLE ARE KILLED. I DO NOT KNOW WHAT'S  
HAPPENING WITH US. HOPE 91 BRINGS US LOVE . . . .

PLEASE SEND ME A TELEGRAMME OR  
SPEAK TO SURESH OF YOUR ARRIVAL

continued

DATES AND TIME. RAMA, KIDS  
JOIN ME IN SENDING ALL OF  
BEST WISHES FOR A  
HAPPY NEW YEAR . .

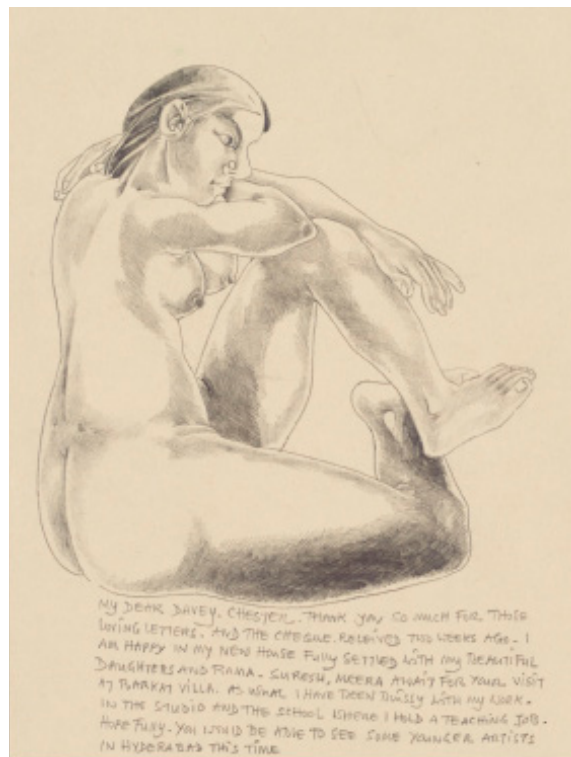
Kalal (K.) Laxma Goud

Born 1940, Nizampur

## Illustrated letter, 1990

Pencil on paper

MSS 871, box 4, folder 2



MY DEAR DAVEY, CHESTER, THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THOSE LOVING LETTERS. AND THE CHEQUE, RECEIVED TWO WEEKS AGO. I AM HAPPY IN MY NEW HOUSE FULLY SETTLED WITH MY BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTERS AND RAMA. SURESH, MEERA AWAIT FOR YOUR VISIT AT BARKAT VILLA. AS USUAL I HAVE BEEN [BUSY] WITH MY WORK. IN THE STUDIO AND THE SCHOOL WHERE I HOLD A TEACHING JOB. HOPEFULLY, YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO SEE SOME YOUNGER ARTISTS IN HYDERABAD THIS TIME

Kalal (K.) Laxma Goud

Born 1940, Nizampur

## Illustrated letter, 1988

Opaque watercolor and ink on paper

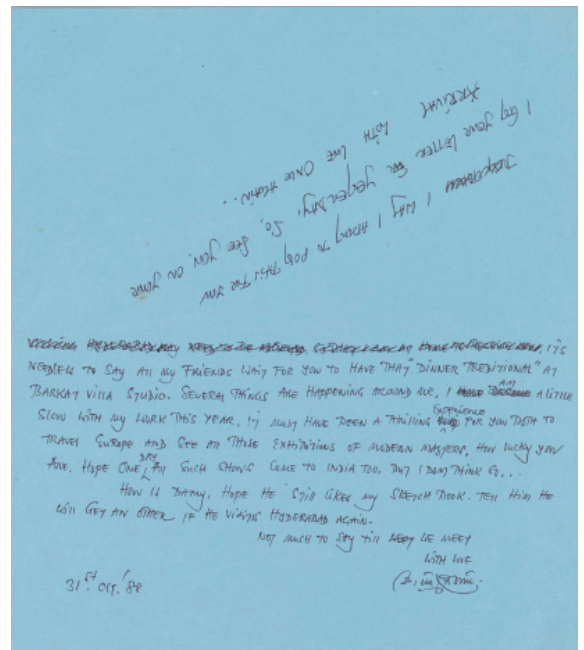
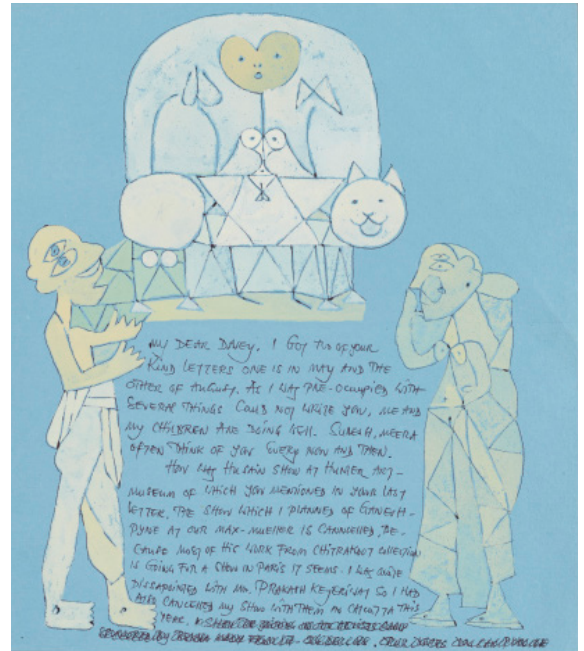
MSS 871, box 4, folder 2

[recto]

MY DEAR DAVEY,

I GOT TWO OF YOUR KIND LETTERS  
ONE IS IN MAY AND THE OTHER OF  
AUGUST. AS I WAS PRE-OCCUPIED  
WITH SEVERAL THINGS COULD NOT  
WRITE YOU. ME AND CHILDREN ARE  
DOING WELL. SURESH, MEERA  
OFTEN THINK OF YOU EVERY NOW  
AND THEN.

HOW WAS HUSAIN SHOW AT HUNTER ART-MUSEUM OF  
WHICH YOU MENTIONED IN YOUR LAST LETTER. THE SHOW





continued

WHICH I PLANNED OF GANESH-PYNE AT OUR MAX-MUELLER  
IS CANCELLED. BE-CAUSE MOST OF HIS WORK FROM  
CITRAKOOT COLLECTION IS GOING FOR A SHOW IN PARIS  
IT SEEMS. I WAS QUITE DISAPPOINTED WITH MR. PRAKASH  
KEYERIWAY SO I HAD ALSO CANCELLED MY SHOW WITH  
THEM IN CALCUTTA THIS YEAR.

[verso]

~~I WAS ABOUT TO POST THIS FOR YOU. I GOT YOUR LETTER-~~  
~~YESTERDAY. SO, SEE YOU ON YOUR ARRIVAL. WITH LOVE-~~  
~~ONCE AGAIN...~~

IT'S NEEDLESS TO SAY ALL MY FRIENDS WAIT FOR YOU  
TO HAVE THAT "DINNER TRADITIONAL" AT BARKAT VILLA  
STUDIO. SEVERAL THINGS ARE HAPPENING AROUND ME. I AM  
A LITTLE SLOW WITH WORK THIS YEAR. IT MUST HAVE BEEN  
A THRILLING ~~[strikethrough text]~~ EXPERIENCE FOR YOU BOTH  
TO TRAVEL EUROPE AND SEE ALL THOSE EXHIBITIONS OF

continued

MODERN MASTERS. HOW LUCKY YOU ARE. HOPE ONE DAY  
ALL SUCH SHOWS COME TO INDIA, TOO, BUT I DON'T THINK  
SO . . .

HOW IS DANNY. HOPE HE STILL LIKES MY SKETCHBOOK. TELL  
HIM HE WILL GET ANOTHER IF HE VISITS HYDERABAD AGAIN.

NOT MUCH TO SAY TILL WE MEET.

WITH LOVE,  
K. LAXMA GOUD

31st Oct. '88

Ganesh Pyne

1959–2013, Kolkata

## Illustrated letter, 1983

Watercolor and ink on paper

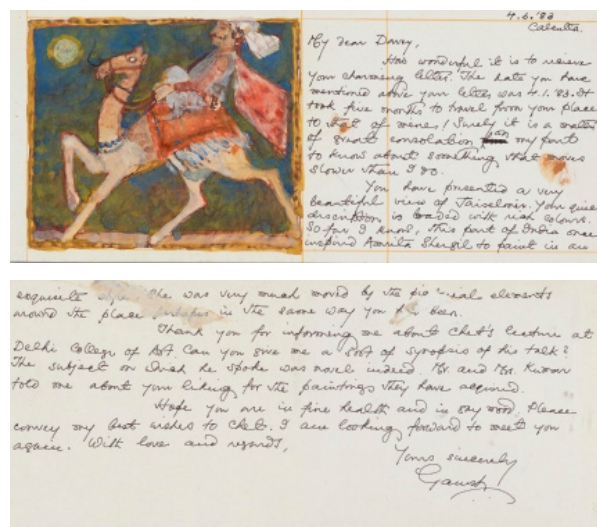
MSS 871, box 5, folder 16

[recto]

4.6.'83

Calcutta.

My dear Davey,



How wonderful it is to receive  
your charming letter. The date you have  
mentioned above your letter was 4.1.'83. It  
took five months to travel from your place  
to that of mine! Surely it is a matter  
of great consolation [striketrough text] on my part  
to know about something that moves  
slower than I do.

continued

You have presented a very  
beautiful view of Jaisalmer. Your quick  
continued  
description is loaded with rich colours.  
So far I know, this part of India once  
inspired Amrita [Sher-Gil] to paint in an

[verso]

exquisite style, She was very much moved by the pictorial  
elements moved the place perhaps in the say way for you  
[illegible] been. Thank you for informing me about Chet's lecture  
at Delhi College of Art. Can you give me a sort of synopsis of his  
talk? The subject on which he spoke was novel indeed. Mr. and  
Mrs. Kuman told me about your liking for the paintings they have

continued

convey my best wishes to Chet. I am looking forward to meet you again. With love and regards.

Yours sincerely

Ganesh

Jogen Chowdhury

Born 1939, Faridpur

## Letter with illustrated inventory of paintings, 1980

Ink on paper

MSS 871, box 3, folder 7

### ⑧ Title: Portrait of P.C.

Medium: Ink & Pastel on Paper  
(Lacquered)

Size: 38 1/2 × 37 1/2 cm.

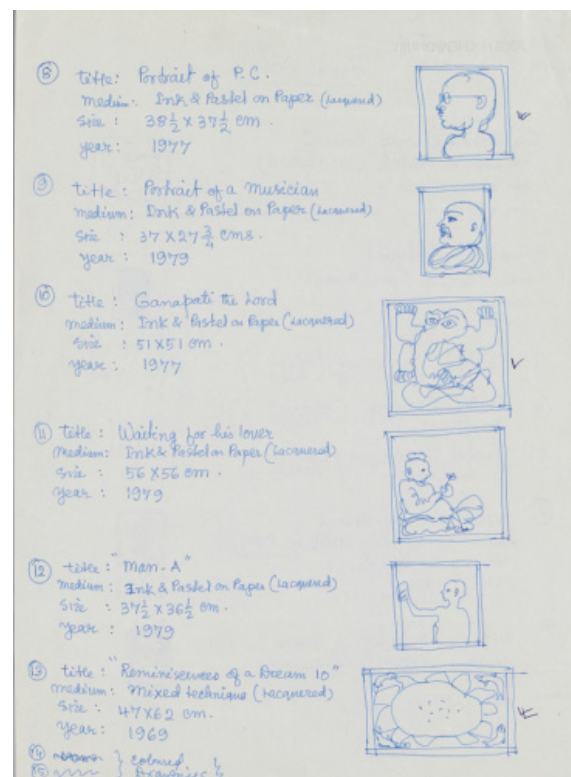
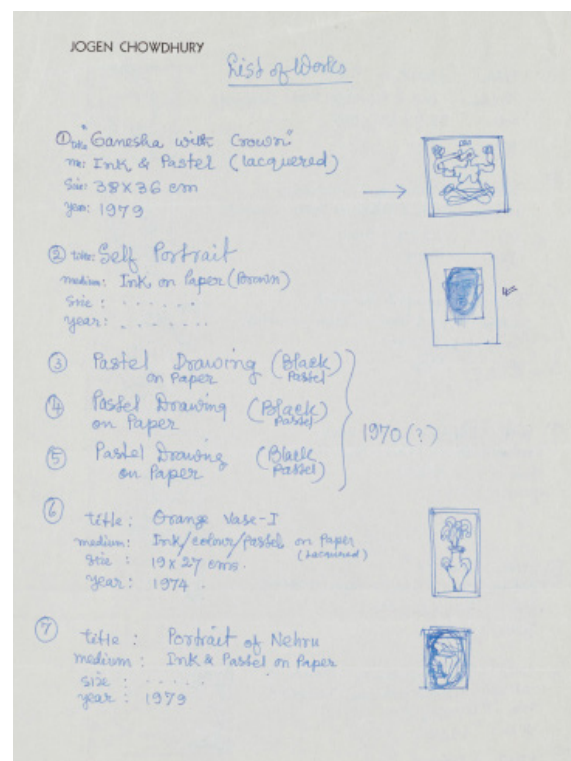
Year: 1977

### ⑨ Title: Portrait of a Musician

Medium: Ink & Pastel on Paper  
(Lacquered)

Size: 37 × 27 3/4 cms.

Year: 1979



continued

**⑩ Title: Ganapati the Lord**

Medium: Ink & Pastel on Paper

(Lacquered)

Size: 51 × 51 cm.

Year: 1977

**⑪ Title: Waiting for his lover**

Medium: Ink & Pastel on Paper (Lacquered)

Size: 56 × 56 cm

Year: 1979

**⑫ Title: "Man. A"**

Medium: Ink & Pastel on Paper (Lacquered)

Size: 37 1/2 × 36 1/2 cm.

Year: 1979

**⑬ Title: "Reminiscences of a Dream 10"**

Medium: Mixed techniques (Lacquered)

Size: 47 × 62 cm.

Year: 1969

continued

⑭ **Coloured**

⑮ **Drawings**



Sayed Haider (S.H.) Raza

1922 Mandla–2016 New Delhi

## Illustrated note, 1984

Ink on paper

MSS 871, box 6, folder 3



My dear Chester + Davey, Our letters crossed. It's good to write to each other about the same time. Hope you will get the "SATPURA" print + the ECTA of the black painting very soon. I am busy on another large brown canvas, so instead of words, this sketch of "GENESE," my form-repertory. Fond love to you both. Raza, Paris, 18th March 1985.

Vasundhara Tewari

Born 1955, Kolkata

**Illustrated note, 1991**

Watercolor and ink on paper

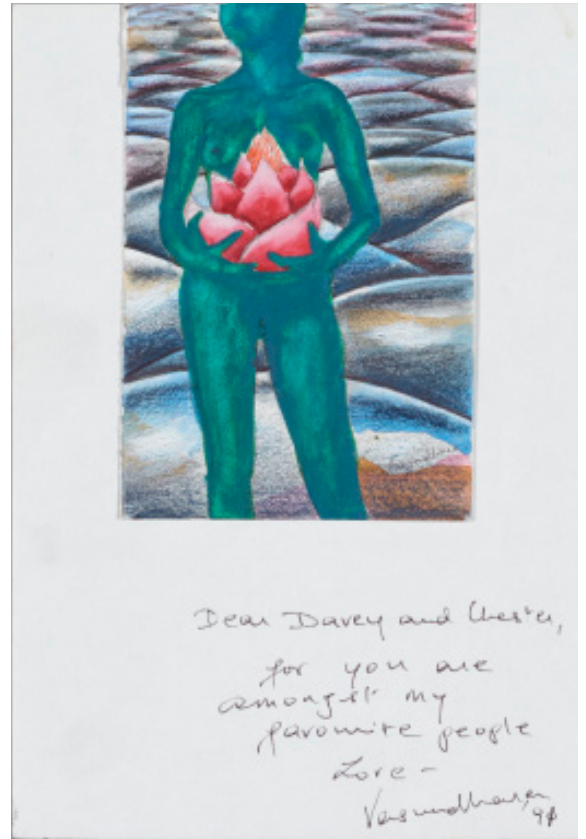
MSS 871, box 8, folder 7

Dear Davey and Chester,

For you are  
amongst my  
favourite people

Love,

Vasundhara '91



Dear Davey and Chester,  
for you are  
amongst my  
favourite people  
Love -  
Vasundhara '91

Somnath Hore

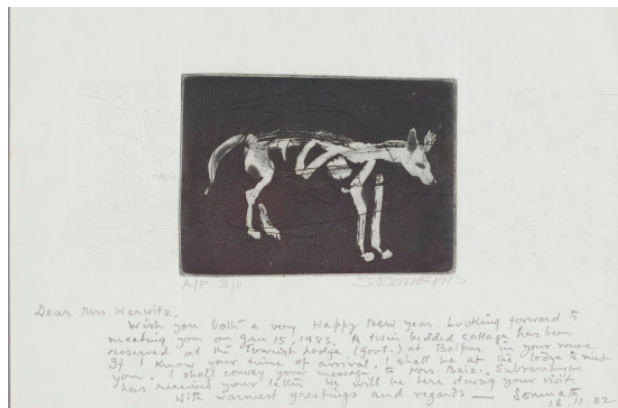
1921 Chittagong–

2006 Santiniketan

**Illustrated note, 1982**

Etching and aquatint

MSS 871, box 4, folder 5



Dear Mrs. Herwitz,

Wish you both a very Happy New Year. Looking forward to meeting you on Jan 15, 1983. A twin bedded cottage has been reserved at the tourist lodge (govt.) at Bolpur in your name. If I know your time of arrival, I shall be at the lodge to meet you. I shall convey your message to Mrs. Baiz. Subramanyan has received your letter. He will be here during your visit.

With warmest greetings and regards— Somnath

18.11.82

Viren Tanwar

Born 1952, Hisar

## Illustrated letter, 1982

Watercolor and ink on paper

MSS 871, box 8, folder 6

Chandigarh

26.12.82

Dear Davey

This gives me pleasure to hear from you.

I really feel fine to know that my paintings are according your appreciation and are a source of delight to you. I think, one of the incentives behind an artist's creative impulses, is always a genuine recognition of one's talent.

I was away from Chandigarh, on an all India tour, accompanying our college students for one month. After coming back, I got your



continued

letter, this being the season for a late reply.

I have become aware of your

programme and will see both of you in Delhi on

Feb 2nd, 83. In case there happens to be any

change in your schedule please inform me accordingly.

With love I am sending you my warm

feelings. Convey my love & regards to Mr. Chester.

My wife and daughter wish both of you all the good.

With love

Yours

Viren