1938-10-12

AFSENDER
Ernest Mancoba

MODTAGER
Goolam Gool

FAKTA

Dokumenttype:
Brev

Dateringsbegrundelse:
dato på brevettranslated 2025-02-07

Afsendersted:
Paris

Modtagersted:
Cape Town

DOKUMENTINDHOLD

Ernest skriver til sin ven, efter at han er flyttet til Paris. Han finder Paris kosmopolitisk. Han har tilmeldt sig Ecole des Arts Decoratifs og er tilfreds med, at han udvikler sit formelle sprog, men han er på udkig efter kunstnerisk indhold.translated 2025-02-07

TRANSSKRIPTION

(transcription by W. Sze]
[sender: Ernest Mancoba, from Hotel Select, 1 Place de la Sorbonne, Paris 5eme.]
[addressed to: Goolam Gool]
[date: 12 Oct 1938]

My dear Goolam,

I feared you must have called me all sorts of names for not writing sooner –

Up to now I have had to rush from place to place without stopping to recollect myself and think properly

On my arrival in Paris I had to do an entrance examination to de Ecole des Arts Decoratifs and happily they thought I was good enough to be admitted so that's that. Now I have started to settle down and try and find my feet in this strange city –

In London hadn't the time to call on James – I had only a week to do a thousand and one things – Seeing people [illegible] my line of sculpture etc etc –

Of course you know how grateful etc etc etc I am for the days I with you – My gratitude especially & Halima who had never seen me before.

My impressions of the French people are happy ones – I think I have found my spiritual home so far as form is concerned but the content I am still searching for – Their respect for humanity, formally, is excellent. I feel for the first time that I count as a human-being – Also there is not such glaring bestiality as you find in London – In London the street crowd was just one face – In Paris every man has his face.

I hope all is well in South Africa –

Yours ever [signed Ernest Mancoba]

Hotel Select
1, Place de la Sorbonne
Paris 5e
Oct. 12th 1938.

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Ernest Mancoba