

1938-10-12

SENDER

Ernest Mancoba

RECIPIENT

Goolam Gool

FACTS

Document type:
Letter

Date explanation:
date on letter

Sender's location:
Paris

Recipient's location:
Cape Town

DOCUMENT CONTENT

Ernest is writing his friend upon settling in Paris. He finds Paris cosmopolitan. He has enrolled at the Ecole des Arts Decoratifs and is satisfied he is developing his formal language but is in search of artistic content

TRANSCRIPTION

(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.

**KILDER TIL
DANSK
KUNSTHISTORIE**

NY CARLSBERGFONDET

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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