

LETTERS BY GIORGIO DE CHIRICO
TO FRITZ GARTZ
PARIS, 1912-1914¹

13.² Letter (October 8, 1912)

Stamp: 8-10-12
Mr. Fritz Gartz
Painter
Römerstrasse 21
Bavaria Munich

Paris
Tuesday

Dear Friend

I hope our friendship has not suffered from this long silence.

I would very much like to have news of you and your kind wife.

I am very happy now. What I was waiting for is coming to pass. I exhibited three paintings at the Salon d'Automne exhibition, which is the most interesting exhibition I have seen until now. Much more interesting than the Secession. My paintings [two words cancelled] were noticed and praised by the art critics. I think I will be very famous here in a few years time.

Reading my name in the newspapers and seeing people notice my paintings and write about them has given me new and strange joy. – Paris is a beautiful city. Why do you remain in the monotony of Munich's heavy atmosphere? Here one can find everything one desires. Everything is refined and has spirit and everyday one learns something new. I have lost a lot of the [cancelled: esteem] love I used to have for the German atmosphere. The French are more intelligent than I thought. They laugh a lot, but they understand better than the Germans what is refined, strange and outside the ordinary. – And you, what are you doing with art? Have you found yourself?

I hope you will write to me. I will probably send you some photographs of my paintings.

I kiss the hand of your kind wife. Be well.

¹ This correspondence is kept at Munich's Bayerische Staatsbibliothek. Original letters transcribed by A. Kalsdorf.

² The numbering of the letters is consecutive to that of the previous section.

Your friend,
George de Chirico
43 rue Chaillot

P.S. Have you seen Bousianis? I have had no news from him.

14. Postcard (August 6, 1913)

Stamp: Vichy 6-8-13
Mr. Fritz Gartz
Painter
Römerstrasse 21 [corrected by the postman: Ringstr. 30 Berlino]
Germany Munich

August 6, 1913
Vichy

Dear Friend,
I have been here a week due to my health. How are you and your kind wife?
I may take a trip to Munich in the winter, I would really like to see you [and your wife] again.
Although, afterwards it will be you who will have to come to Paris. –
I imagine your daughter has become a beautiful German girl. –
Many greetings
George de Chirico

15. Letter (November 12, 1913)

Stamp: Paris 12-11-1913
Mr. Fritz Gartz
Painter
Römerstrasse 21
Germany Munich

Paris

Dear Friend,
I was very happy of the news that the Art Gallery has bought a painting of yours. My dear friend, you know very well the high opinion I have of you and I am always happy when something good

happens to people of whom I have a high opinion. I am also happy your little girl is well again, and I hope that Hygeia, the god of health, will now protect your daughter, as she does with me, as I now feel quite well.

I am very happy about my work. – I am dealing with two art dealers who have galleries here.

One of them will hold a big exhibition of my paintings in the spring. The other will show works of mine in Berlin, Vienna, London and in Russia.

A few days ago I held an exhibition in my studio. [cancelled: I will send you a few newspapers in which articles were written]. The most famous poet here in Paris is: Guillaume Apollinaire, whose poems have been translated even into German; he is very interested in my work and writes often about me, I am happy to know a man who is so interesting. – Are the painters of Munich making progress or are they still doing the boring painting of the Secession? Here there is a colossal movement in art.

I am exhibiting four paintings at the Salon d'Automne. I hope to become a member this winter.

Will you not exhibit at the Berlin Secession? –

I hope to receive news from you soon and the photographs you promised me.

I kiss the hand of your kind wife; to you my dear friend, my greetings; a hug to your daughter, and I hope to take a short trip to Munich this winter.

My mother says hello to both you and Mrs. Gartz.

Your friend

Giorgio de Chirico

43 rue de Chaillot, Paris

16. Postcard (March 10, 1914)

Stamp: Paris 11-3-14

Mr. Fritz Gartz

Römerstrasse 21

Germany Munich

43 rue de Chaillot

March 10, 1914

My dear Friend

Please forgive me for not writing until now and I didn't send the articles; sometimes it happens that one wants to do something and time passes without it getting done.

Is it now too late to send you the articles?

Have you already left for Italy? Please write me a word so I'll know if I am still in time, if not I'll bring the articles with me in May when I come to see you. I am very happy about this; unfortunately my life is still sad; You are probably happy; what is little Gudrun up to? In two months I will see

you and we will speak at length; won't you ever come to Paris?

Goodbye, dear friend, I kiss your wife's hand.

G. de Chirico

17. Postcard (May 18, 1914)

Stamp: Paris 18-5-14

Mr. Fritz Gartz

Römerstrasse 21

Germany Munich

Dear Friend

I received your postcard, thank you.

I am very happy that little Gudrun is well again. I think we will surely meet in the autumn, because I will be holding an exhibition in Berlin in November. It is the German magazine "Der Strum" that is organizing the exhibition. –

You haven't written anything about your work to me, I would really like to know what you are doing. – I'm sending you a periodical: "Les Soirées de Paris". It is the modern movement's periodical on painting, poetry and music.

The last article is by my brother, who as a composer goes by the name Savinio. I hope you find this periodical interesting. If you don't want to subscribe I will send it to you every month, and ask you to show your acquaintances in hope that someone will subscribe. My brother will be holding a concert in the periodical's rooms. I will send you the program.

I kiss the hand of your kind wife. See you in November.

Your friend

G. de Chirico

Translated from the Italian by Katherine Robinson