

Saffronart Brings Strong Collection of Indian Modernists to its September Evening Sale

Mumbai, 22 August 2018: Saffronart returns with its annual *Evening Sale*, a live auction of modern Indian art, at The Oberoi, New Delhi on 20 September 2018. The *Evening Sale* follows closely on the heels of the opening of Asia Society's landmark exhibition *The Progressive Revolution: Modern Art for a New India* in New York on 14 September 2018, and includes important paintings by many of the artists who are featured in that show.

Commenting on the auction, CEO Dinesh Vazirani says, "*Saffronart's Evening Sale this year comes at an exciting time in the international art calendar, when the spotlight is firmly on modern Indian art. The rare and iconic works in this auction by modern masters include several members of the Progressive Artists' Group, many of whom feature extensively in the Asia Society's forthcoming exhibition. These works offer collectors a chance to acquire not just a painting, but really a piece of Indian art history. With a strong Indian art market and rising interest from younger collectors, we look forward to offering some of the best of Indian art in New Delhi.*"

The sale features **69 works** of historical significance by India's foremost Modernists. Among them is **S H Raza's *Village en Provence***, a magnificent six-foot-long panoramic view of the south of France, **painted in 1957**, a year after Raza won the prestigious Prix de la Critique award and a decade after the Progressive Artists' Group was formed. **Estimated at INR 2.75 – 3.75 crores (USD 392,860 – 535,715)**, this work is a unique and rare format for the artist and demonstrates the significant shift in his style, which led him to redefine the course of Indian Modernism, becoming one of the most influential artists of the post-Independence era.

From the same decade is **Akbar Padamsee's *Untitled (Head of a Woman)*** estimated at **INR 1 – 1.5 crores (USD 142,860 – 214,290)**. **Painted in 1952**, the same year he won the third prize in the *Journal D'Arte* competition for a similar work, it is an exceptional example of Padamsee's early explorations with the figure.

A 1975 *Untitled* work by V S Gaitonde leads the sale. **Estimated at INR 15 – 20 crores (USD 2.2 – 2.9 million)**, this enigmatic work in deep crimson merges Gaitonde's interest in Zen Buddhism with the principles of calligraphy. One of the few works he painted that year, it is a classic example of his later work, which is a period highly coveted among collectors.

Following Tyeb Mehta's iconic painting of ***Kali, 1989***, which **set a world record for the artist at INR 26.4 crores (approximately USD 4 million)** in Saffronart's June 2018 *Summer Online Auction*, comes another crucial work from Mehta's oeuvre. **Tyeb Mehta's seated female figure, painted in 1961** during his stay in England, is a significant early painting and goes under the hammer with a presale estimate of **INR 3.75 – 4.75 crores (USD 551,475 – 698,530)**.

Saffronart's carefully curated collection of rare masterpieces also features an early oil and tempera work by the formidable artist **Nicholas Roerich**, painted in the early 20th century. Created as part of a stage design for the Russian opera *Snegurochka (The Snow Maiden)*, it represents Roerich's early

success as an auteur of theatre design in Russia and Europe. *The Snow Maiden (Stage Design)* is estimated at INR 2.2 – 2.8 crores (USD 314,290 – 400,000).

The *Evening Sale* is Saffronart's first live auction to be held at the redesigned premises of The Oberoi, New Delhi, and is preceded by viewings at Saffronart in Mumbai and New Delhi. All lots from the sale can be viewed on saffronart.com.

AUCTION

Thursday, 20 September 2018

Registration: 6.30 pm

Auction: 7.30 pm

VENUE

Ballroom, The Oberoi
Dr. Zakir Hussain Marg
New Delhi 110003

VIEWINGS

MUMBAI

Viewings

23 August – 2 September 2018

11 am – 7 pm, Monday to Saturday

11 am – 4 pm, Sunday (by appointment)

Venue

Saffronart
Industry Manor, 3rd Floor
Appasaheb Marathe Marg
Prabhadevi, Mumbai 400025

NEW DELHI

Viewings

10 – 18 September 2018

11 am – 7 pm, Monday to Saturday

11 am – 4 pm, Sunday (by
appointment)

Venue

Saffronart
The Oberoi
Dr. Zakir Hussain Marg
New Delhi 110003

HIGHLIGHTS



Lot 13: **V S Gaitonde, *Untitled*, 1975**

Oil on canvas, 65 x 40 in

Estimate: INR 15 – 20 crores (USD 2,142,860 – 2,857,145)

Image courtesy of Saffronart



Lot 38: **S H Raza, *Village En Provence*, 1957**

Oil on cardboard pasted on canvas, 25 x 72 in

Estimate: INR 2.75 – 3.75 crores (USD 392,860 – 535,715)

Image courtesy of Saffronart



Lot 29: **Nicholas Roerich, *The Snow Maiden (Stage Design)***

Oil and tempera on canvas, 23.5 x 35.5 in

Estimate: INR 2.2 – 2.8 crores (USD 314,290 – 400,000)

Image courtesy of Saffronart



Lot 45: **Rameshwar Broota, *Blast in Silence, 2002***

Oil on canvas, 54.25 x 109 in

Estimate: INR 1.5 – 2 crores (USD 214,290 – 285,715)

Image courtesy of Saffronart



Lot 18: **Akbar Padamsee, *Untitled (Head of a Woman)*, 1952**

Oil on board, 27.75 x 21 in

Estimate: INR 1 – 1.5 crores (USD 142,860 – 214,290)

Image courtesy of Saffronart



Lot 54: **Tyeb Mehta, *Untitled (Figure of a Woman)*, 1961**

Oil on canvas, 49 x 39 in

Estimate: INR 3.75 – 4.75 crores (USD 535,715 – 678,575)

Image courtesy of Saffronart

ABOUT SAFFRONART

Founded in 2000 by Minal and Dinesh Vazirani, Saffronart is a leading international auction house with deep Indian roots, and is India's most reputed. It is headquartered in Mumbai, with offices in New Delhi, London and New York. At the forefront of selling Indian art, Saffronart holds online and live auctions, exhibitions, and prime property sales throughout the year. Saffronart's focus is to bring transparency to the auction process, and to provide easy access to bidders around the world. Saffronart has so far seen successful sales of over 20,000 artworks and objects across various categories.

Saffronart's services go beyond auctions to include private sales, appraisals and valuations for our clients, and supporting the efforts of the Indian art world by holding fundraiser auctions. Saffronart has set several global benchmarks for online auctions, and was the subject of a case study at Harvard Business School in 2005.

Website: www.saffronart.com | **Facebook:** @saffronart | **Instagram:** @saffronartartindia

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