

**Saffronart Partners with Kochi Biennale Foundation for Flood Relief Fundraiser Auction**

Art Rises for Kerala (ARK) will be the first live art auction in Kerala

**Mumbai, 9 January 2019:** Saffronart, in partnership with the Kochi Biennale Foundation (KBF), is conducting a live fundraiser art auction, titled Art Rises for Kerala (ARK), on 18 January 2019 at the Grand Hyatt, Kochi. The first live art auction ever to be held in the state will raise funds for ongoing flood relief efforts, and proceeds from the auction will be donated to the Government of Kerala Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund. The auction will feature 42 works of modern and contemporary Indian art.

The sale, which will have no Buyer's Premium, will be led by an untitled canvas and resin work from 2018 by leading contemporary artist Anish Kapoor. Other top artists who have donated works for the auction include Atul Dodiya, Anju Dodiya, G R Iranna, Gigi Scaria, Sudhir Patwardhan and Vivan Sundaram, and the auction also features two rare drawings by Amrita Sher-Gil. The auction takes place during the Kochi-Muziris Biennale, which continues through 29 March 2019.



Anish Kapoor, *Untitled*, 2018, canvas, resin and pigment, 53 x 47 x 28 cm. Estimate: INR x - x.

This is the third time that Saffronart is partnering with KBF for an auction, following auctions to raise funds for the Kochi Muziris Biennale in 2015 and 2017. On 29 – 30 August 2018, StoryLTD by Saffronart conducted a Kerala Flood Relief Fundraiser Auction and raised an amount of INR 36 lakhs, which was donated to Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan by Saffronart CEO Dinesh Vazirani on 21 November 2018.

Saffronart CEO Dinesh Vazirani said, *"This partnership is yet another manifestation/example of our enduring relationship with Kerala, home to many talented Indian artists and the birthplace of the Kochi Muziris Biennale. Our fundraiser auction in August 2018 raised 36 lakhs for the Kerala Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund to aid rebuilding efforts following the devastating floods, and we are counting on the*

*generous support of art collectors across the world once again. Through this auction, we reiterate our solidarity with the resilient people of this beautiful state.”*

The live auction will be preceded by viewings at Bastion Bungalow in Fort Kochi from 5 – 17 January 2019. All lots can be viewed online on [saffronart.com](http://saffronart.com).

#### **ABOUT SAFFRONART**

Founded in 2000 by Minal and Dinesh Vazirani, Saffronart is a leading international auction house, and India’s most reputed, with over two hundred auctions to its credit. Its flagship gallery is in Mumbai, with offices in New Delhi, London and New York. At the forefront of selling Indian art, Saffronart has, over the past 18 years, held online and live auctions, exhibitions, and Dialogues in Art, working with collectors, gallerists and artists to develop a strong market for art and aesthetics. Its focus is to bring transparency to the auction process, and provide easy access and information to collectors around the world. Saffronart’s services go beyond auctions to include private sales, appraisals and valuations for clients. 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](http://www.saffronart.com) | **Facebook:** @saffronart | **Instagram:** @saffronartartindia

**Press Contact:** Benjamin Bamnolkar | [benjamin@saffronart.com](mailto:benjamin@saffronart.com) | +91 9820888743