

Saffronart to Conduct A Spring Live Auction of 68 Exceptional Artworks on behalf of the Tax Recovery Officer, Central-3, Mumbai, Income Tax Department

- First of its kind art auction by a professional auction house on behalf of the Tax Recovery Officer, Income Tax Department
- Saffronart will have two back-to-back Live and Online Landmark Auctions by Leading Modern & Contemporary Indian and Chinese artists
- The Spring Online Auction will feature 89 remarkable works by some of India's leading Modern & Contemporary artists.
- Both sales will feature two historically important works by Raja Ravi Varma

Mumbai, 11 March 2019: Saffronart will present two consecutive Spring Auctions – a **Live Auction** on **26 March 2019** and an **Online Auction** on **27 – 28 March 2019**, with over 150 artworks going under the hammer. The **Spring Live Auction**, will be the first time in the country's history, that a professional auction house is auctioning artworks on behalf of the Government of India through the Tax Recovery Officer, Income Tax Department, Central-3, Mumbai. Saffronart's Spring Online Auction will offer works by the most celebrated names in **Modern & Contemporary Indian Art** in its first online auction of the year.

Commenting on the auction **Dinesh Vazirani, Saffronart CEO and Co-Founder** said, *"We are extremely excited about our line-up for the back-to-back Spring Auctions. The selection and appointment of Saffronart as the official auctioneer on behalf of the Tax Recovery Officer, Central-3, Mumbai, Income Tax Department, Government of India, is a distinct honour for us. This is the first time a professional auction house has been appointed for an auction of this nature in India. Both auctions have some exceptional works of art and are complementary to each other. We are very optimistic about the outcome of these two consecutive auctions."*

Spring Live Auction On Behalf of the Tax Recovery Officer, Central-3, Mumbai, Income Tax Department, Government of India (26 March 2019)

The live auction comprising of **68 lots**, will feature works from both Indian and Chinese artists. Leading the sale, in this historic milestone auction, is an impressive **Untitled**, oil on canvas, (lot 37) painted by **VS Gaitonde** in **1973**. Another important highlight of the auction is **Raja Ravi Varma's The Maharaja of Travancore and his younger brother welcoming Richard Temple-Grenville, 3rd Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, Governor-General of Madras (1875-80), on his official visit to Trivandram in 1880**, (lot 13) a rare painting by the artist from 1881 estimated between **INR 12 – 18 Crores (USD 1,714,290 - 2,571,430)**. **Akbar Padamsee's, Grey Nude, 1960**, (lot 21) estimated between **INR 1.5 Crores – 2 Crores (USD 214,290 - 285,715)** is also part of the sale.

The auction comprises of key works by eminent contemporary artists including **Jitish Kallat, Rameshwar Broota, Atul Dodiya, Rekha Rodwittiya, Justin Ponmany** and many more. Five works by Chinese artists **Wu Yi, Ge Guanzhong, Xu Lei, Miao Xiaochun and Chen Ke**, ranging from stunning, detailed contemporary ink works to sculptural digital paintings also feature in this sale. Born in the 1960s and 1970s, these artists exhibit a deep and nuanced knowledge of both Chinese and European art history, often marrying the two in their work to create an innovative artistic vocabulary.

Spring Online Auction (27 - 28 March 2019)

The **Spring Online Auction**, which has been carefully curated, will comprise of an exceptional collection of **89 lots**. The catalogue features important works by artists from the pre-independence period to the present day with many having historically significant provenance and extensive exhibition and publication history. The collection provides a glimpse into the progression of Indian art with works spanning over a hundred years.

Leading the online auction is a rare and monumental diptych created with two separate canvases titled *Jaipur* and *Jodhpur* by **S H Raza** (lot 30), from the collection of Kurt Erhart, estimated between **INR 14 – 21 Crores (USD 2,000,000 – 3,000,000)**. **S H Raza's *Untitled (Venice)*, 1952**, (lot 13) which is an exceptionally rare work, from the collection of Mr and Mrs Sorovsky (Paris) is also part of the sale and is estimated between **INR 1.05 – 1.4 Crores (USD 150,000 – 200,000)**. **Raja Ravi Varma's, *Hanuman's Discourse*, circa 1870**, (lot 44) which is a historically important work by the artist is estimated between **INR 4 – 6 Crores (USD 571,430 – 857,145)**.

The catalogue also features works by several contemporary artists including **Nalini Malani, Atul Dodiya, T V Santhosh, Zarina Hashmi, Sudarshan Shetty** and many more. Sculptures by eminent modern and contemporary artists including **B Prabha, Akbar Padamsee, Himmat Shah, Prodosh Dasgupta, Sankho Chauduri**, are also part of the auction.

The online auction will take place on saffronart.com. All lots can be viewed on the website.

AUCTION DATES

Spring Live Auction | 26 March 2019

Spring Online Auction | 27 – 28 March 2019

HIGHLIGHTS

SPRING LIVE AUCTION (26 March 2019)



Lot 37
V S Gaitonde
Untitled
1973

Oil on canvas
59.5 x 39.25 in (151 x 100 cm)
Estimate: Price on request
Image courtesy of Saffronart

Vasudeo Santu Gaitonde has always stood apart from his contemporaries, whether in his personality, which demanded isolation, or in his aesthetic vision that increasingly exhibited a strong sense of meditative introspection. In this 1973 painting, Gaitonde creates a deep, smouldering crimson surface, interspersed by dark horizontal bands that appear palpably dynamic. Two yellow orbs punctuate the painting in the middle, while a larger dark circle emerges from the lower half. Through this delicate balance between colour, space, light and texture in the present lot, Gaitonde conjures a deeply spiritual world that evoke associations of nature and philosophy.

**Lot 13****Raja Ravi Varma**

The Maharaja of Travancore and his younger brother welcoming Richard Temple-Grenville, 3rd Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, Governor-General of Madras (1875-80), on his official visit to Trivandram in 1880

1881

Oil on Canvas

41.5 x 57 in (105.5 x 145 cm)

Estimate: INR 12 – 18 Crores (USD 1,714,290 - 2,571,430)

Image courtesy of Saffronart

The present lot, a rare oil painting by Raja Ravi Varma illustrates the welcoming party for the third Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, Richard Temple-Grenville, on his official visit to Trivandrum, the capital of Travancore, a princely state in Southern India, in 1880. Ravi Varma was invited to document this historical event and upon completion the present lot was gifted to the Duke as a token of appreciation. After his death, the painting passed on to his eldest daughter Baroness Kinloss. In the 1920s, it changed hands and became a part of Castle House, Buckingham, the offices of Buckinghamshire County Council, and remained there until 1974, when a private collector acquired it.



Lot 21
Akbar Padamsee
Grey Nude
1960

Oil and plastic emulsion on canvas
51.5 x 25.5 in (130.5 x 64.8 cm)

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

Image courtesy of Saffronart

The present lot brings together key elements in Akbar Padamsee's artistic oeuvre: the figure, particularly the female nude that had a heavy presence in his works from the beginning, set within a grey landscape—a significant choice of colour palette rendered in masterful brushstrokes. Painted in 1960, a year after he moved from Paris to Mumbai, it was one among a series of monochromatic grey works that he painted that year, twelve of which were later exhibited at a monumental show at the Jehangir Art Gallery, and would lead to his recognition as a formidable artist in the modern Indian art space.

SPRING ONLINE AUCTION (27-28 March 2019)

**Lot 30****S H Raza*****Jaipur and Jodhpur, (Set of two)*****1976**

Acquired directly from the artist, property from the Collection of Kurt Erhart

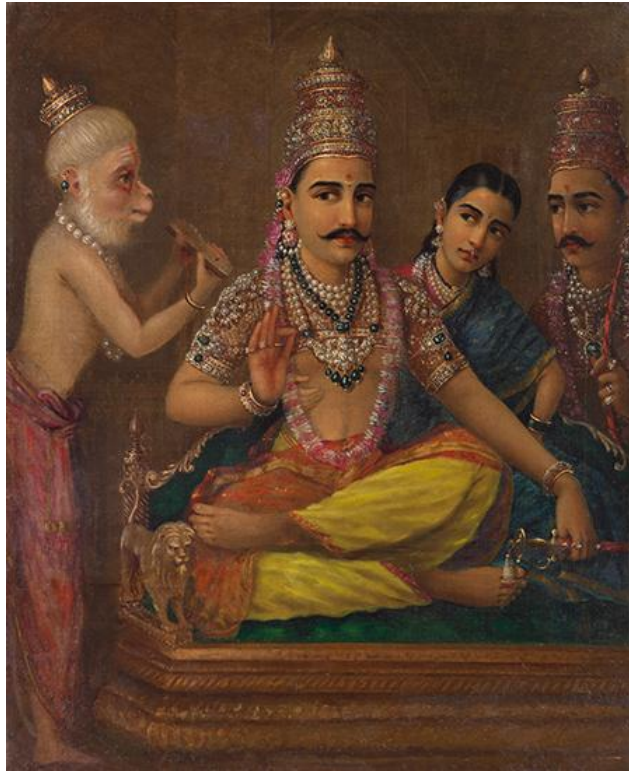
Acrylic on canvas

48 x 48 in (122 x 122 cm) each

Estimate: INR 14 – 21 Crores (USD 2,000,000 – 3,000,000)

Image courtesy of Saffronart

The present lot is a rare and monumental diptych created with two separate canvases titled ***Jaipur*** and ***Jodhpur***. Painted in 1976, these paintings of the two Rajasthani cities have an important place in the artist's oeuvre, representing a shift in style, medium and subject. Kurt Erhart, a seasoned art collector and connoisseur, from Innsbruck, a city in western Austria, acquired the present lot directly from the artist. Erhart's connection with India started as a result of his business running a fashion-based textile company. Through this enduring relationship, he had the opportunity to meet and interact with several eminent Indian artists, including S H Raza and Krishen Khanna, and began collecting Indian art in the 1980s. The present lot is part of this fine collection.



Lot 44

Raja Ravi Varma

Hanuman's Discourse

Circa 1870

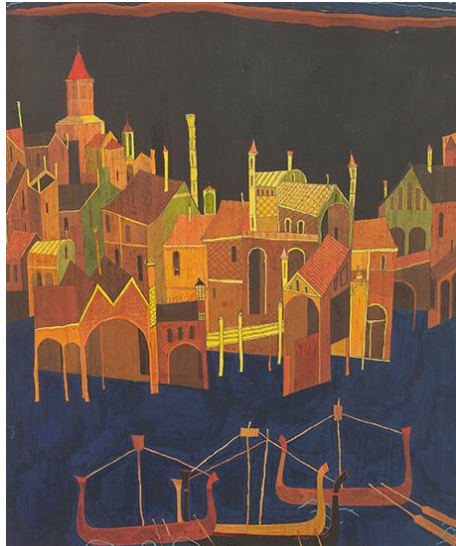
Oil on canvas

20.25 x 16.75 in (51.4 x 42.4 cm)

Estimate: INR 4 – 6 Crores (USD 571,430 – 857,145)

Image courtesy of Saffronart

Often deemed as the “Father of Modern Indian Art,” Raja Ravi Varma was the first Indian artist of aristocratic lineage to depict conventional themes with stunning photorealism. As seen in the present lot, he was best known for combining Hindu mythology with a Western academic style of painting, a pioneering move in Indian art during the late 19th century. Raja Ravi Varma also went on to create a pioneering printing press, democratizing access to images and art related to Hindu mythology and epics.



Lot 13
S H Raza
Untitled (Venice)
1952

Acquired directly from the artist, Collection of Mr and Mrs Sorovsky, Paris
Gouache on paper
20.75 x 17.25 in (52.6 x 43.8 cm)
Estimate: INR 1.05 – 1.4 Crores (USD 150,000 – 200,000)
Image courtesy of Saffronart

Painted in 1952, two years after S H Raza had moved to Paris, the present lot reflects a brief but significant point in the artist's career when he was departing from his earlier expressionist style toward a more Cubist approach. During his early years in France, Raza travelled to the southern countryside (where he would later settle down), as well as parts of Spain and Italy. Likely inspired by his two-month sojourn in Italy, this work depicts a scene in Venice, and is a rare and unusual choice for the artist who mainly focused on the French landscape.

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 | **Facebook:** @saffronart | **Instagram:** @saffronartartindia

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