

## Saffronart's Summer Online Auction Features Rare, Unseen Works by Modernists V S Gaitonde and F N Souza

**Mumbai, 22 May 2019:** Saffronart will conduct its annual **Summer Online Auction** on **12 – 13 June 2019**, featuring 120 works by leading modern and contemporary artists, many of which are from important collections within India and abroad.

The 24-hour online auction shines a spotlight on eminent Indian Modernist **V S Gaitonde**, highlighting four works from pivotal periods in his artistic career. Leading the sale is an **Untitled** painting from **1958** ([lot 50](#)), a vibrant red work with fragmented planes. Painted when the artist first began veering into a “non-objective” mode of painting, this work is poised at the beginning of Gaitonde’s journey into pure abstraction that made him the highly coveted artist he is among collectors today. Estimated at **INR 4 – 6 crores (USD 579,715 – 869,570)**, this previously unseen work was acquired directly from the artist by **Urmila and the late Gunvant Mangaldas**, who were important art patrons and among the earliest collectors of modern Indian art.

An **Untitled** oil on canvas work by **V S Gaitonde** ([lot 51](#)), painted over a decade later in 1970, also features in this sale. Estimated at **INR 12.42 – 16.56 crores (USD 1.8 – 2.4 million)**, this lot is painted in an earthy colour palette with Gaitonde’s trademark calligraphic forms floating on the canvas, providing an ethereal quality to the work.

**F N Souza’s Untitled (Hampstead)** from **1964** is a rare work that has never been seen before in public, and was likely gifted by the artist to Reeves, an artists’ paint company in London, in exchange for using their paint products. Estimated at **INR 1.72 – 2.41 crores (USD 250,000 – 350,000)**, this restless landscape ([lot 29](#)) belongs to a highly lucrative period in Souza’s career, embodying the apocalyptic vision that dominated his paintings in post-war London in the 1960s. The work remained in Reeves’ collection until they were eventually acquired by Colart, an international art supplies company.

**Dinesh Vazirani, Saffronart’s CEO and Co-Founder** said, *“The highlights of our Summer Online Auction this year are rare, unseen works by V S Gaitonde and F N Souza, two of India’s leading Modernists. These paintings represent significant milestones in the artists’ distinctive careers and belong to noteworthy collections, presenting a great opportunity for anyone looking to own a masterpiece. The auction also features significant Indian contemporary artists, as well as artists from South Asia, and comes at an important time that coincides with the second dedicated Indian pavilion at the Venice Biennale.”*

Other highlights include a monumental work by **Tyeb Mehta** representing the artist’s early exploration with form, colour, and texture. Estimated at **INR 4 – 6 crores (USD 579,715 – 869,570)**, **Reclining Figure with Bull’s Head, 1963** ([lot 67](#)), is an important precursor to Mehta’s seminal figurative works that he perfected in later years. The catalogue also includes two works from **S H Raza’s Bindu** series, a motif that became central to his paintings in later decades. **Bindu, 1992** ([lot 38](#)) and **Nad-Bindu, 2000** ([lot 85](#)) are estimated at **INR 1.1 – 1.24 crores (USD 160,000 – 180,000)** and **INR 70 – 90 lakhs (USD 101,450 – 130,435)** respectively.

The contemporary section includes works by prominent artists including **Atul Dodiya** and **Jitish Kallat**, who are part of the India Pavilion at the ongoing 58<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennale. The auction also features a selection of sculptures by **Satish Gujral, Himmat Shah, B Vithal, and**

**B Prabha**, as well as a thought-provoking installation, *Arabian Delight, 2008* ([lot 102](#)), estimated at **INR 8.28 – 10.35 lakhs (USD 12,000 – 15,000)**, by Pakistani-born artist **Huma Mulji**. Other South Asian artists featured in the auction include **Imran Qureshi** and Sri Lankan artists **George Keyt** and **Senaka Senanayake**.

The online auction will take place on [saffronart.com](http://saffronart.com) and is preceded by viewings of select lots in New York, London, Mumbai and New Delhi. All lots can be viewed on the website.

## AUCTION DATES

12 – 13 June 2019 on [saffronart.com](http://saffronart.com)

## VIEWINGS

### New Delhi

Through 26 May 2019  
11 am – 7 pm, Monday to Saturday  
Sunday by appointment

### Venue

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

### Mumbai

1 – 13 June 2019  
11 am – 7 pm, Monday to Saturday  
Sunday by appointment

### Venue

Saffronart, Industry Manor, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Appasaheb Marathe Marg  
Prabhadevi, Mumbai 400025

### London

6 – 13 June 2019  
11 am – 7 pm, Monday to Friday  
11 am – 4 pm, Saturday  
Sunday by appointment

### Venue

73 New Bond Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
London W1S 1RS

## 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 19 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

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## HIGHLIGHTS



Lot 29: **F N Souza, *Untitled (Hampstead)*, 1964**  
Oil and polyvinyl acetate on canvas, 42 x 34 in (106.7 x 86.4 cm)  
Estimate: INR 1.72 – 2.41 crores (USD 250,000 – 350,000)  
Image courtesy of Saffronart



Lot 38: **S H Raza, *Bindu*, 1992**  
Acrylic on canvas, 39.25 x 39.25 in (100 x 100 cm)  
Estimate: INR 1.1 – 1.24 crores (USD 160,000 – 180,000)  
Image courtesy of Saffronart



Lot 50: **V S Gaitonde, *Untitled*, 1958**  
Oil on canvas, 29.75 x 24.75 in (75.5 x 62.8 cm)  
Estimate: INR 4 – 6 crores (USD 579,715 – 869,570)  
Image courtesy of Saffronart



Lot 51: **V S Gaitonde, *Untitled*, 1970**  
Oil on canvas, 60 x 34.75 in (152.1 x 88.3 cm)  
Estimate: INR 12.42 – 16.56 crores (USD 1.8 – 2.4 million)  
Image courtesy of Saffronart



Lot 67: **Tyeb Mehta, *Reclining Figure with Bull's Head*, 1963**

Oil on board, 46.75 x 71 in (119 x 180.4 cm)

Estimate: INR 4 – 6 crores (USD 579,715 – 869,570)

Image courtesy of Saffronart



Lot 102: **Huma Mulji, *Arabian Delight*, 2008**

Rexine suitcase, taxidermy camel, metal rods, wood, cotton wool, fabric  
Height: 41.25 in (105 cm), Width: 56.75 in (144 cm), Depth: 61 in (155 cm)

Estimate: INR 8.28 – 10.35 lakhs (USD 12,000 – 15,000)

Image courtesy of Saffronart