

Saffronart Brings Art Community Together to Raise Over INR 66 Lakhs for COVID-19 Relief

Mumbai, 1 May 2020: Saffronart's online **COVID-19 Relief Fundraiser Auction** closed last night, raising **INR 66 lakhs (approximately USD 90,000)**. The auction saw enthusiastic bidding from around the world on the 52 featured artworks donated by collectors, gallerists and artists for the No Reserve auction. The proceeds will be **donated to three non-profit grassroots organisations – Goonj, Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA) and Stree Mukti Sanghatana (SMS).**

Saffronart CEO Dinesh Vazirani said, *"We sincerely thank the art community for their generosity in both donating and bidding on works to support organisations doing important work on the ground. We are humbled by the response that the auction received, which allowed us to raise over INR 66 lakhs to further aid COVID-19 relief efforts across the country."*

The online sale, which had **no Buyer's Premium**, was led by vivid untitled paintings by [Thota Vaikuntam](#) from 2019 – [Lot 36](#) saw competitive bidding and sold for **INR 7.84 lakhs (USD 10,601)**; and [Lot 13](#), a set of two works by the artist, sold for **INR 5.37 lakhs (USD 7,257)**. A dry pastel on paper work by eminent modernist **Krishen Khanna**, titled [Lament on a Battlefield](#), sold for **INR 3.12 lakhs (USD 4,216)**.

Among contemporary artists, **Tayebe Begum Lipi's** installation titled [A Swim Suit for You 1](#), 2018, made of stainless steel and razor blades, sold for **INR 4.46 lakhs (USD 6,023)** and **Dharmanarayan Dasgupta's** painting [Kurta Series](#), 1981 sold for **INR 2.9 lakhs (USD 3,916)** as bidders continued to show their support for the cause.

20 YEARS OF 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 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

ABOUT GOONJ

Goonj is a non-profit organisation working in the areas of disaster relief, humanitarian aid and development in India. Founded in 1999, it is headquartered in New Delhi with a presence in 23 states across the country. Its focus is on addressing basic but neglected needs and using urban discard as a tool to alleviate poverty and enhance the dignity of the poor. Goonj's Rahat COVID-19 initiative aims to provide immediate relief support to affected communities through ration kits, setting up community kitchens, and catering to urgent health and hygiene requirements. They have already distributed over 15,000 ration kits and provided support to 92 partner organisations.

ABOUT YOUTH FOR UNITY AND VOLUNTARY ACTION (YUVA)

Founded in Mumbai in 1984, Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA) is a non-profit development organisation focussing on enabling vulnerable communities to access their rights through engaged discourses and sustained collective action. They are currently active in five states – Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Assam and New Delhi. YUVA's "Together We Can" initiative invites donations to aid COVID-19 emergency relief efforts through monthly ration kits, cooked meals for police officers, government hospital staff and stranded migrant workers in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region. YUVA also manages emergency relief in response to the 1098 distress helpline for children (Childline) in the region.

ABOUT STREE MUKTI SANGHATANA (SMS)

Stree Mukti Sanghatana (SMS) is a leading non-profit organisation working in the field of women's rights and empowerment for more than four decades. Established in 1975, they provide family counseling, day-care centres, self-help groups and training for waste pickers, and innovative communication on women's issues through an in-house publication and cultural events. Through their Parisar Vikas programme, SMS is supporting 3000 women waste pickers in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region by providing Personal Protective Equipment, essential item kits, and financial support to those who have been deprived of their source of income in the aftermath of the COVID-19 lockdown.