

Saffronart to Offer 101 Collectible Antiquarian Books in Upcoming Online Auction

Mumbai, 6 January 2020: Saffronart will present an online auction dedicated to **Antiquarian Books** on **15 - 16 January 2020**. The carefully researched and curated selection features books exploring the rich history, landscapes, social life, costumes and customs in the Indian subcontinent between the 17th and 19th centuries, often through unparalleled lithographs, photographs and illustrations.

Among the leading lots is a four-volume compilation titled ***Les Hindous, 1804*** ([lot 101](#)) by Belgian marine artist Frans Balthazar Solvyns, estimated at **INR 22 - 25 lakhs (USD 30,990 - 35,215)**. The set includes **290 detailed, coloured etchings** exploring themes such as professions, performing arts, entertainment, transportation, and native flora and fauna. Each plate is accompanied by French text, as well as an English translation.

James Baillie Fraser's ***Views in the Himala Mountains, 1820*** ([lot 89](#)) comprises 20 loose hand-coloured aquatint plates and is estimated at **INR 30 - 40 lakhs (USD 42,255 - 56,340)**. Fraser explored the Himalayan region for two months with his brother in 1815-16, and the duo were the first Europeans to reach the sources of both the Ganga and Yamuna rivers, captured here in vivid illustrations.

Scenery, Costumes and Architecture chiefly on the Western Side of India, 1826-30 ([lot 100](#)), featuring 36 aquatint plates after drawings by Captain Robert Melville Grindlay, is estimated at **INR 12 - 15 lakhs (USD 16,905 - 21,130)**. Grindlay, best known as the founder of Grindlays Bank and a self-taught artist, arrived in India in 1803 and worked with the East India Company's military service. He travelled widely across the country and made numerous drawings and sketches of the landscapes and life around him, including views of Bombay, Gujarat and Ellora.

Further highlights include William Edwards' ***Sketches in Scinde, 1846*** ([lot 73](#)) featuring hand-coloured lithographs (estimate: INR 9 - 11 lakhs); ***Views of Calcutta Environs, 1848*** ([lot 60](#)) by Sir Charles D'Oyly (estimate: INR 9 - 11 lakhs) and ***Bourne & Shepherd's Royal Photographic Album*** ([lot 17](#)) – a large, rare folio album featuring original albumen prints documenting the extensive tour of the Prince of Wales to the Indian subcontinent 1875-76 (estimate: INR 6 - 7 lakhs).

Dinesh Vazirani, Saffronart's CEO and Co-Founder said, *"Our first auction of 2020 marks the first time that books are being auctioned as a category on Saffronart. While we have conducted numerous successful auctions of books – including rare books, first editions and antiquarian books and maps – on our sister website StoryLTD, this move underscores the growing importance and potential of this category."*

The online auction will take place on saffronart.com and is preceded by viewings at the Saffronart gallery in Mumbai from 8 – 16 January 2020. All lots can be viewed on the website.

AUCTION DATES

15 – 16 January 2020 on saffronart.com

VIEWINGS

8 – 16 January 2020
11 am – 7 pm, Monday to Saturday
Sunday (by appointment)

VENUE

Saffronart, Industry Manor, Third Floor
Appasaheb Marathe Marg
Prabhadevi, Mumbai 400025

AUCTION HIGHLIGHTS



Lot 101: Frans Balthazar Solvyns, *Les Hindous: Ou Description de Leurs Moeurs, Coutumes et Ceremonies*, Paris: Chez l'Auteur & H. Nicolle, 1808-1812

Estimate: INR 22 – 25 lakhs (USD 30,990 - 35,215)

Image courtesy of Saffronart



Lot 89: James Baillie Fraser, *Views in the Himala Mountains*, London: Rodwell & Martin, 1820

Estimate: INR 30 – 40 lakhs (USD 42,255 - 56,340)

Image courtesy of Saffronart



Lot 100: **Captain Robert Melville Grindlay, *Scenery, Costumes and Architecture chiefly on the Western Side of India*, London: R Ackermann; Elder, Smith and Co., 1826-1830**

Estimate: INR 12 – 15 lakhs (USD 16,905 - 21,130)

Image courtesy of Saffronart



Lot 60: **Sir Charles D'Oyly, *Views of Calcutta Environs*, London: Dickinson & Co, 1848**

Estimate: INR 9 – 11 lakhs (USD 12,680 - 15,495)

Image courtesy of Saffronart



Lot 73: **William Edwards, *Sketches in Scinde*, London: Graves, 1846**

Estimate: INR 9 – 11 lakhs (USD 12,680 - 15,495)

Image courtesy of Saffronart



Lot 17: **Samuel Bourne and Charles Shepherd, *Bourne & Shepherd's Royal Photographic Album of Scenes and Personages*, Calcutta, Bombay and Simla: Bourne and Shepherd, 1876**

Estimate: INR 6 – 7 lakhs (USD 8,455 - 9,860)

Image courtesy of Saffronart

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 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:** @saffronartjewels

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