

ARTWORKS FROM REPUTED INDIAN AND INTERNATIONAL PRIVATE COLLECTIONS LEAD SAFFRONART'S SUMMER ONLINE AUCTION

- Saffronart's Summer Online Auction will take place online on 18 - 19 June 2025
- The impressive catalogue features 142 lots by prominent modern and contemporary South Asian artists, including S H Raza, Jehangir Sabavala, M F Husain, Krishen Khanna, Ram Kumar, F N Souza, Nalini Malani, and Anju Dodiya
- Select lots can be viewed prior to the sale at the London gallery, New York gallery, Mumbai and New Delhi galleries (for dates, see below)

Mumbai, 2 June 2025: Saffronart's Summer Online Auction returns on 18 - 19 June 2025 with a wide-ranging catalogue of 142 lots by prominent modern and contemporary South Asian artists. Many of the featured works, belonging to reputed private collections in India and internationally, are appearing at auction for the first time. A preview of the sale will be held on 12 June 2025 at the London gallery along with viewings of select lots ahead of the auction across Saffronart's London, New York, Mumbai and New Delhi galleries.

Leading the auction is *Bindu (Germination)*, 1991 ([lot 56](#), estimate: USD 1 - 1.5 million, INR 8.40 - 12.60 crores) by S H Raza. The diptych centres around Raza's iconic *bindu*—a symbol of the *bija* or primordial seed with the power to both create and destroy. The lower panel features a large *bindu* that generates movement and energy as well as anchors the composition, while the upper panel features a precise grid of shapes and colour sequences offering a symbolic meditation on creation and the origins of the universe. The upper quadrants feature the *bindu* encircled by inverted triangles, a reference to the feminine principle in Indian thought that further reinforces its significance as the source of all existence.

Also included in the sale are seven works from the Virginia and Ravi Akhoury Collection, a distinguished selection of South Asian art, shaped over decades by the Akhourys' discerning taste and a deep personal connection with the subcontinent. Among these is *The Four Milk-Maids*, 1954 ([lot 109](#), estimate: USD 500,000 - 700,000, INR 4.20 - 5.88 crores) by Jehangir Sabavala, which offers a rare glimpse into Sabavala's early explorations of subject, colour, and form. The painting depicts a group of rural women walking through a desert landscape carrying pots of milk and is a part of a series of vivid canvases inspired by the sun-drenched terrain of rural Rajasthan.

Other highlights from the sale include a work which was formerly in the collection of influential art

critic George M Butcher. **Untitled, Circa 1950s (lot 13, estimate: USD 120,000 - 180,000, INR 1 - 1.51 crores)** by Ram Kumar is among his earliest semi-abstract cityscapes, a genre that would become a cornerstone of his career.

Saffronart is pleased to offer eight artworks belonging to an important private collection in New Delhi. Highlights include **Monsoon Drenched Her Body Green (lot 23, estimate: INR 2 - 3 crores, USD 238,100 - 357,145)** by M F Husain, which centres on the female form, a significant and recurring motif in Husain's works, and **Untitled, Circa early 1980s (lot 24, estimate: INR 1.50 - 2.50 crores, USD 178,575 – 297,620)** by Krishen Khanna, which features a pair of subaltern figures—a subject that he revisits often in his art. This painting is a precursor to the expansive mural at the ITC Maurya in Delhi that Khanna completed in 1983. **Untitled (Lost Continent), 2005 (lot 86, estimate: USD 300,000 - 500,000, INR 2.52 - 4.20 crores)** by M F Husain is one of 21 oil on canvases that M F Husain made within two months in an apartment in London in 2005, highlighting the expressions of his views on the moral decline of humanity. In **“And Do I Dare?” After T.S. Eliot, 2012 (lot 124, estimate: INR 50 - 70 lakhs, USD 59,525 – 83,335)**, the artist Nalini Malani reverse paints women, animals, ghosts and other images using acrylic, ink and enamel. **Flame Play, 2006 (lot 133, estimate: USD 25,000 – 35,000, INR 21 – 29.40 lakhs)** is part of a series of double-sided works by Anju Dodiya first exhibited as part of *Throne of Frost*, a 2007 show at the Durbar Hall of the Lakshmi Vilas Palace in Baroda.

Dinesh Vazirani, Saffronart CEO and Co-Founder said, *“Our Summer Online Auction catalogue this year reflects our ongoing commitment to building a robust global market for Indian art that reaches far beyond the diaspora. Works like Bindu (Germination), 1991, by S H Raza and The Four Milk-Maids, 1954, by Jehangir Sabavala embody themes that are quintessentially Indian and yet hold a prominent place within the broader narrative of modern art worldwide. Many of the works in this sale not only represent significant milestones in the artists’ distinctive careers but also belong to noteworthy collections, presenting a great opportunity for collectors and connoisseurs to acquire some of the best that South Asian art has to offer.”*

Full artwork information available upon request. All lots have been published in the printed catalogue and e-catalogue and can be viewed on saffronart.com.

AUCTION DATES

Summer Online Auction 18 - 19 June 2025 on saffronart.com.

LONDON PREVIEW

Summer Online Auction I 12 June 2025 at 73 New Bond St, 1st floor, London W1S 1RS, United Kingdom

VIEWINGS

LONDON

13 June - 19 June 2025

11 am - 6 pm, Monday to Friday

11 am - 3 pm, Saturday

Sunday, by appointment

To make an appointment, please contact +44 (0) 20 7409 7974 or email london@saffronart.com

VENUE

73 New Bond St, 1st floor

London W1S 1RS,

United Kingdom

NEW YORK

2 June - 5 June 2025

11 am - 7 pm

To make an appointment, please contact +1 212 627 5006 or email newyork@saffronart.com

VENUE

AOI Advisors

136 E 73rd St, 2nd Floor

New York, NY 10021

MUMBAI

2 June - 19 June 2025

11 am - 7 pm, Monday to Saturday

Sunday, by appointment

To make an appointment, please contact +91 22 6855 4100 or email auction@saffronart.com

VENUE

Industry Manor, Ground Floor

Appasaheb Marathe Marg

Prabhadevi, Mumbai 400025

NEW DELHI

2 June - 19 June 2025

11 am - 7 pm, Monday to Saturday

Sunday, by appointment

To make an appointment, please contact +91 11 24369415 or email delhi@saffronart.com

VENUE

The Oberoi

Dr Zakir Hussain Marg

New Delhi 110003

ABOUT SAFFRONART

Founded in 2000 by Minal and Dinesh Vazirani, Saffronart is one of India's most reputed auction houses with an international presence. Its flagship gallery is in Mumbai, with offices in New Delhi, London, and New York. The company is at the forefront of selling Indian art and, together with its sister online auction and e-commerce platform StoryLTD, has 700 auctions to its credit. Its focus is to bring transparency to the auction process and provide easy access and information to collectors around the world. It has set several global benchmarks for online auctions and was the subject of a case study at Harvard Business School in 2005. Saffronart's services also include private sales, appraisals, and valuations for clients. It has also held exhibitions and panel discussions with industry experts, working with collectors, gallerists, and artists to develop a strong market for art and aesthetics.

Website: www.saffronart.com | **Facebook:** @saffronart | **Instagram:** @saffronartartindia

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