

Exceptional works from modern Indian masters, rare antiquities, and indigenous art anchor Saffronart's Winter Auctions

- The Winter Auctions will be held live on 10 December and online on 10-11 December 2025.
- The catalogues feature standout works by modern and contemporary masters such as Tyeb Mehta, M F Husain, Jehangir Sabavala, Manjit Bawa, V S Gaitonde and Nalini Malani.
- An extensive range of historic antiquities, spanning several centuries, will be featured in the live and online auctions.
- The catalogues also offer Indian folk and tribal art, and rare miniature paintings.

Mumbai, December 2025: Marking a strong finale to its 25th year, Saffronart presents its Winter Auctions, live and online on 10 and 11 December respectively. Since its founding in 2000, Saffronart has played a pivotal role in shaping the global discourse around Indian art. Reflecting its 25-year journey, this year's Winter Auctions capture the vibrancy and cultural diversity of the subcontinent, featuring impressive works of modern and contemporary Indian art, alongside historic antiquities, traditional folk and tribal art, and rare miniatures.

A particular noteworthy aspect of the Winter Auction, live and online, is its expansive historical scope. Spanning millennia, from rare works dating back to 2000 BC to exemplary works of modern and contemporary Indian art, the auctions offer an unparalleled view of India's artistic heritage and traces the rich evolution of India's visual arts.

Highlight lots:

Tyeb Mehta, *The Face*, 1961 ([lot 17](#), estimate: INR 15 - 20 crores, USD 1.70 - 2.27 million)

This lot is an exceptional example from Mehta's earliest figurative phases, preceding the emergence of sharp lines, bisecting diagonals, and flat, bright planes of colour that would come to define his later works. The painting reflects Mehta's exposure to Western artistic influences and was included in an exhibition at Bear Lane Gallery in Oxford.

V S Gaitonde, *Untitled*, 1961 ([lot 13](#), estimate: INR 12 - 18 crores, USD 1.36 - 2.04 million)

Gaitonde painted the present lot at the beginning of one of the most significant decades of his artistic career. Though the work appears to suggest a horizon dividing, Gaitonde's art is never literal, representing an early instance of the artist's "non-objective" abstraction.

Jehangir Sabavala, *Mirage*, 1966 ([lot 48](#), estimate: USD 1 - 1.50 million, INR 8.80 - 13.20 crores)

In this painting, two shrouded figures sit in an arid desert, their backs turned to the viewer. A dark, indistinct apparition hovers by a silvery surface in the distance. It remains uncertain whether this form is another being or a mirage conjured by the weary travellers' imagination. Sabavala had begun to introduce such spectral figures into his compositions by 1963, though they rarely formed the main focal point of his canvases during this decade.

M F Husain, *Untitled* ([lot 8](#), estimate: INR 7 - 9 crores, USD 795,455 - 1.02 million)

Inspired by Husain's fascination with Kerala's landscapes and cultural ethos in the 1960s, this monumental painting showcases a vibrant herd of elephants. In Husain's oeuvre, animals came to embody specific qualities and developed into enduring visual icons he revisited time and again.

Manjit Bawa, *Untitled*, 2000 ([lot 45](#), estimate: USD 600,000 - 800,000, INR 5.28 - 7.04 crores)

Bawa creates a palpable sense of movement on the sparse canvas with his rippling lines. This lot showcases his exceptional draughtsmanship featuring a rosy-hued big cat frolicking with a squirrel against a flat ground of bright green. The two

figures mirror each other despite their considerable difference in size, creating a harmonious loop with each facing the other's tail.

Pair of Devis with Prabhavali, Chera Dynasty, Kerala, Late 12th Century ([lot 30](#), estimate: INR 2 -3 crores, USD 227, 275 - 340, 910)

This monumental bronze is among the earliest examples of work from the Chera dynasty and, besides being the largest known example of its kind, it also highlights the exceptional intricacy and finesse of the sculpture.

Dancing Sambandar, Chola Dynasty, 13th Century ([lot 28](#), estimate: INR 1.50 - 2 crores, USD 170,455 - 227,275)

This sculpture shows Sambandar dancing jubilantly. His right-foot is raised dynamically mid-movement whilst his left hand is held up gracefully. The index finger of the right hand points upwards, acknowledging Shiva's superiority.

"As we mark Saffronart's 25th year, we are deeply grateful for the journey and for the opportunity to expand the presence of South Asian art worldwide. Our Winter Auctions encapsulate the incredible arc of time in Indian aesthetics—bringing together modern and contemporary masterpieces, historic antiquities, and an exceptional selection of folk and tribal art. They reflect the depth, diversity, and enduring relevance of India's artistic heritage," said Minal and Dinesh Vazirani, Co-founders of Saffronart.

The auctions, which will take place live in Mumbai and online on the Saffronart website and app, will be preceded by viewings of select lots in Saffronart's Mumbai and London galleries.

All lots can be viewed [here](#). Full information available upon request.

AUCTION DATES

Saffronart Winter Auction| Live | 10 December 2025

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

Saffronart Winter Auction| Online |10-11 December 2025 at saffronart.com

VIEWINGS

Saffronart Winter Auction| Viewings of select lots | 1-11 December 2025

Mumbai:

11am - 7pm (Monday to Saturday) and Sunday (by appointment only)

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

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

London:

11am - 7pm (Monday to Friday), Saturday and Sunday (by appointment only)

Saffronart Gallery, 1st Floor, 73 New Bond Street, London W1S 1RS

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

ABOUT SAFFRONART

Founded in 2000 by Minal and Dinesh Vazirani, Saffronart is one of India's most reputed auction houses with a strong international presence. Its flagship gallery is in Mumbai, with offices in New Delhi, London, and New York. A leader in the sale of Indian art, Saffronart—together with its sister e-commerce platform StoryLTD—has conducted over 700

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auctions. The company is committed to transparency and to making the auction process accessible to collectors worldwide. It has set several global benchmarks for online auctions and was featured in a 2005 Harvard Business School case study. Saffronart also offers private sales, appraisals, and valuations, and hosts exhibitions and panel discussions with industry experts, working closely with collectors, gallerists, and artists to strengthen the market for Indian art and aesthetics.

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Press Contact: pr@saffronart.com