

**Rare modern canvases, formerly from the Krishna and Jean Riboud collection, and F N Souza's iconic *Six Gentlemen of Our Times* lead Saffronart's 25th Anniversary Evening Sale**

- **Saffronart's 25th Anniversary Live Evening Sale to take place on 27 September 2025 in Delhi, with previews in Mumbai (29 August 2025) and Delhi (25 September 2025).**
- **Sale features a 1956 canvas by Tyeb Mehta from the Tyeb Mehta family collection.**
- **The catalogue includes rare works formerly from the Krishna and Jean Riboud collection, by Indian modernists V S Gaitonde, Akbar Padamsee, M F Husain, and Jagdish Swaminathan.**
- **Other highlight lots include prominent works by Jehangir Sabavala, S H Raza, Edwin Lord Weeks, F N Souza, Nicholas Roerich and more.**

**Delhi, August 2025:** Founded in 2000, Saffronart has played a pivotal role in shaping the Indian art market, nationally and internationally. Started with a clear vision to create a platform for collecting art that offered transparency, Saffronart was the first Indian auction house to pioneer online auctions and embrace cutting-edge technology, expanding accessibility across geographies and building a platform that democratises access to art and empowers buyers to make informed decisions. Commemorating 25 years this year, the flagship 25th Anniversary Live Evening Sale will take place on 27 September 2025 at The Oberoi in New Delhi.

This year, Saffronart is proud to present five rare lots formerly from the Krishna and Jean Riboud collection as part of the live sale. Krishna Riboud, often regarded as a doyenne of the arts, was born Krishna Roy in 1927 in Dhaka and was raised in Kolkata. Her mother Ena Tagore was the niece of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore. Krishnamarried industrialist Jean Riboud, head of Schlumberger, in 1949. The Ribouds lived in Paris and for many years their names resonated in the galleries and salerooms of London, Paris and New York.

The collection in the sale features canvases by Indian modernists such as an ***Untitled lot, 1970* (estimate: INR 18 - 24 crores, USD 2.06 - 2.75 million)** by V S Gaitonde, an ***Untitled lot, 1968* (estimate: INR 5.50 - 7.50 crores, USD 632,185 - 862,070)** by Akbar Padamsee, an ***Untitled lot* (estimate: INR 3.50 - 5.50 crores, USD 402,300 - 632,185)** by Jagdish Swaminathan, and two M F Husain works, an ***Untitled lot, 1966* (estimate: INR 3 - 5 crores, USD 344,830 - 574,715)** and ***Floating Figure, 1970* (estimate: INR 1.80 - 2.40 crores, USD 206,900 - 275,865).**

In a note for the sale catalogue, Delhi based journalist and Krishna Riboud's dear friend Sunil Sethi describes the five works from the Riboud collection, as "examples of high connoisseurship, chosen

by someone whose insight and consummate taste in art was unparalleled.”

***Six Gentlemen of Our Times, 1955* (estimate: INR 6 - 8 crores, USD 697,675 - 930,235)**, a set of six pen and ink works on papers, captures **F N Souza** at his creative peak. Dressed in suits and ties suggesting civility, the “gentlemen” pose stiffly, their sneers betraying self-importance. Souza uses a frontal composition to evoke a sense of monumentality, only to counter it with distortion and irony. Whether political leaders, bureaucrats, judges, or religious figures, they emerge not as true gentlemen but as emblems of corrupted authority and morally bankrupt upper classes.

Also included in the sale is ***The Anchorite, 1983* (estimate: INR 12 - 15 crores, USD 1.37 – 1.72 million)** by **Jehangir Sabavala**. Often archetypal, Sabavala’s figures reflect universal themes, and this work—depicting a solitary figure—can be read as a meditation on the artist’s own pursuit of the elusive ideal of perfection. ***Rajasthan, 1972* (estimate: INR 18 – 24 crores, USD 2.06 – 2.75 million)** by **S H Raza** reveals the artist’s growing fascination with Rajasthan during his travels in the 1970s. He evokes the heat of its scorching desert landscape through a vivid palette of fiery reds, intense ochre, warm greens, and flashes of white with imprecise triangles and squares.

Other highlights include **M F Husain’s *Mahabharata, 1990* (estimate: INR 18 - 24 crores, USD 2.09 - 2.79 million)**, ***Trussed Bull* by Tyeb Mehta, 1956** (estimate: INR 5 - 7 crores, USD 581,400 - 813,955), ***Muttra, 1883* (estimate: INR 2.75 - 3.75 crores, USD 316,095 - 431,035)** by **Edwin Lord Weeks**, **Nicholas Roerich’s *Qaraqorum (Karakoram), 1938* (estimate: INR 1.50 – 2 crores, USD 174,420 – 232,560)**, and an ***Untitled* lot, 1940** (estimate: INR 25 - 35 lakhs, USD 28,740 - 40,230) by **F N Souza**.

**Dinesh Vazirani, Saffronart CEO and Co-Founder said,** “*We are pleased to present an exceptional catalogue celebrating our landmark 25th Anniversary Evening Sale, featuring works of rarity, art historical significance, and exceptional quality from distinguished collections worldwide. Among these are remarkable works from the collection of Krishna and Jean Riboud. A lifelong champion of Indian art and textiles, Krishna assembled a collection of great depth and calibre through passion, discernment, and unwavering dedication. The works offered in this sale stand as a testament to the Ribouds’ connoisseurship and commitment to embracing art as a way of life.*”

**Minal Vazirani, Saffronart President and Co-Founder said,** “*Our 25th Anniversary Evening Sale brings together works that embody the finest achievements of modern Indian art while tracing its arc. With the inclusion of masterpieces dating as far back as the 1940s and traversing the decades, this sale is a new benchmark for collectors seeking works of art of historical significance. Modern Indian art of this calibre, in a single auction, is a rare privilege and an incredible milestone in the 25-year journey of Saffronart.*”

Full artwork information available upon request.

#### AUCTION DATE

25th Anniversary Live Evening Sale | 27 September 2025, 7.30pm  
Saffronart, The Oberoi, Dr Zakir Hussain Marg, New Delhi 110003

#### PREVIEW DATE

Mumbai Preview | 29 August 2025, 7 pm onwards  
Saffronart Gallery, Industry Manor, Prabhadevi, Mumbai, Maharashtra 400025  
Delhi Preview | 25 September 2025, 7 pm onwards  
Saffronart, The Oberoi, Dr Zakir Hussain Marg, New Delhi 110003

#### VIEWINGS

##### MUMBAI

30 August – 14 September 2025 from 11 am – 7 pm, Monday to Saturday (Sundays by appointment)  
Address as above  
*To make an appointment, please contact +91 22 6855 4100 or email us at [auction@saffronart.com](mailto:auction@saffronart.com)*

##### DELHI

18 September – 26 September 2025 from 11 am – 7 pm, Monday to Saturday (Sundays by appointment)  
Address as above  
*To make an appointment, please contact +91 11 2436 9415 or email us at [delhi@saffronart.com](mailto:delhi@saffronart.com)*

#### 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 over 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. The Saffronart Foundation is a non-profit organisation rooted in the arts which supports initiatives at the intersection of culture and social change, where artistic skill serves as an enabler to educate, raise awareness, and foster meaningful dialogue.

**Website:** [www.saffronart.com](http://www.saffronart.com) | **Facebook:** @saffronart | **Instagram:** @saffronartartindia

**Press Contact:** [pr@saffronart.com](mailto:pr@saffronart.com)