

## Masterpieces of Indian Modernism on Auction on 8 September

- Important works from the 1950s – 1970s by India’s leading modernists are among auction highlights
- Scope of Modernism presented in greater depth, including rare early works
- Akbar Padamsee’s masterpiece *Greek Landscape* (1960) at INR 7 – 9 crores (USD 1 – 1.3 million) as auction premiere
- Painting by V S Gaitonde estimated at INR 10 – 15 crores (USD 1.5 – 2.2 million) is top lot
- Further highlights include works by S H Raza, K G Subramanyan, Nasreen Mohamedi, Gulammohammed Sheikh and Gaganendranath Tagore
- Auction on 8 September 2016 in New Delhi, preceded by viewings in Mumbai and New Delhi

**Mumbai, 19 August 2016:** Saffronart’s upcoming [Evening Sale](#), its biggest art auction of the year, will take place in New Delhi on Thursday, 8 September 2016. The auction features 87 lots valued at a total of INR 62 – 87.8 crores (USD 9.4 – 13.3 million). The sale focuses on Modern Indian art, with important works from the post-Independence years, when India’s leading artists created some of their best and most significant paintings.

Leading the sale are exemplary paintings by Akbar Padamsee and V S Gaitonde. Padamsee’s *Greek Landscape* (1960), an imagined cityscape painted in a palette of varying intensities of grey, attracted particular attention for its revolutionary approach and monumental scale, when it was first exhibited at the Jehangir Art Gallery. Padamsee garnered critical acclaim from leading art critics of the time, and found admiration among his contemporaries, including M F Husain and Krishen Khanna. One of only four large scale works from this seminal show and featured on the invitation card at the time, it is now entering the auction market for the first time ever. *Greek Landscape* firmly established Padamsee as a master and now stands as an icon of Indian Modernism. It is estimated at INR 7 – 9 crores (USD 1 – 1.3 million).

“Everything starts from silence. The silence of the brush. The silence of the canvas. The silence of the painting knife. The painter starts by absorbing all these silences.” Nowhere do V S Gaitonde’s words manifest more profoundly than in *Untitled* (1970), an oil on canvas painting that he created at a time when he had moved into his most lyrically abstract phase. Architect and friend of Gaitonde, Narendra Dingle once wrote that in works such as the lot on auction, “the entire work appeared like a dance of colours on canvas.” The top lot on auction, it is estimated at INR 10 – 15 crores (USD 1.5 – 2.2 million).

Further highlights from the sale include paintings by S H Raza, K G Subramanyan, Nasreen Mohamedi, Gulammohammed Sheikh, and Gaganendranath Tagore, among many others. For the first time, Saffronart is also offering works by Sir Jacob Epstein, G M Solegaonkar, A A Raiba, Prodosh Dasgupta and Ila Pal, providing greater insights into the scope of Indian Modernism as well as rare and unusual early works by the Masters.

Hugo Weihe, CEO of Saffronart said, “We are proud to present an extraordinary and carefully curated collection of Modern Masters. It includes exceptional and rare masterpieces, but also sheds more light on the depth of talent during the golden period of Modernism in India in the ’50s and ’60s, anchored around Padamsee’s *Greek Landscape* of 1960. We have also put a particular emphasis on sourcing rare and unusual works that provide new

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insights and surprises. With the recent passing of S H Raza and K G Subramanyan, this catalogue is not least dedicated to them and their extraordinary achievements.”

The auction will be held at The Leela Palace, New Delhi on **Thursday, 8 September 2016, 7.30 pm** . Bidders may register at the venue at 6.30 pm. The auction is preceded by viewings in Mumbai and New Delhi on the following dates:

## **Mumbai**

Viewings and Appointments:

24 - 30 August 2016

11am-7 pm, Monday to Saturday

Sunday by appointment

Saffronart

Industry Manor, Ground Floor

Appasaheb Marathe Marg, Prabhadevi

Mumbai 400025, India

## **New Delhi**

Viewings and Appointments:

6 - 8 September 2016

11 am - 7 pm, 6 - 7 September

11 am - 3 pm, on 8 September

The Grand Ball Room and

The Royal Room

The Leela Palace

Diplomatic Enclave, Chanakyapuri

New Delhi 110023, India

The auction catalogue may be viewed on [saffronart.com](http://saffronart.com). Bidders can pre-register by logging in online, or at the venue at the time mentioned above. Bids are accepted in the room, on the phone, through the Saffronart MobileApp, and online. Absentee/proxy bids may also be submitted, either through a written form or by placing proxy bids online. A live video webcast of the auction will be available on the website.

## Auction Highlights

1. Lot 13: Akbar Padamsee  
[Greek Landscape , 1960](#)  
Plastic emulsion on canvas  
52 x 144 in (132 x 366 cm)  
**Estimate:** INR 7,00,00,000 - 9,00,00,000 (USD 1,060,610 - 1,363,640)
2. Lot 48: V S Gaitonde  
[Untitled, 1970](#)  
Oil on canvas  
60 x 34.75 in (152.1 x 88.3 cm)  
**Estimate:** INR 10,00,00,000 - 15,00,00,000 (USD 1,515,155 - 2,272,730)
3. Lot 14: Nasreen Mohamedi  
[Untitled, circa 1960](#)  
Oil on canvas  
47.5 x 35.5 in (120.7 x 90.4 cm)  
**Estimate:** INR 2,00,00,000 - 3,00,00,000 (USD 303,035 - 454,550)
4. Lot 50: S H Raza  
[La Terre, 1986](#)  
Acrylic on canvas  
47.25 x 47.25 in (120 x 120 cm)  
**Estimate:** INR 3,75,00,000 - 4,50,00,000 (USD 568,185 - 681,820)
5. Lot 61: Gaganendranath Tagore  
[Ruben's Sketch Book](#)  
Pencil on art paper and tissue  
Height: 7.75 in (18.4 cm), Width: 10.5 in (26.5 cm)  
Cardboard hardcover front and back  
Total number of pages: 23  
9 sheets of art paper with pencil sketches  
18 sheets of tissue, 10 with pencil sketches  
NON-EXPORTABLE NATIONAL ART TREASURE  
**Estimate:** INR 1,50,00,000 - 2,00,00,000 (USD 227,275 - 303,035)
6. Lot 19: Gulammohammed Sheikh  
[Recurring Image, 1962](#)  
Oil on canvas  
35.75 x 32.5 in (90.6 x 82.5 cm)  
**Estimate:** INR 65,00,000 - 85,00,000 (USD 98,485 - 128,790)

## About Saffronart

A global company with deep Indian roots, Saffronart was founded in 2000 on the strength of a private passion. Remaining committed to this passion and personal values, today Saffronart is a strong and successful international auction house that both embraces and drives change.

A platform for fine art and collectibles with over fourteen years of experience in auctions, Saffronart is committed to serving the growing community of Indian collectors, while also creating a cultural bridge to India for both the global Indian diaspora and the international community at large. Saffronart has set several global benchmarks for online auctions and is the subject of a case study at Harvard Business School.

In its 15 year journey, Saffronart has established itself as one of the leading auction houses in the world and has held several highly successful online and live auctions and preview events in cities like Mumbai, New Delhi, New York, London, Singapore and Hong Kong. In July 2015, Saffronart appointed Hugo Weihe, former International Director of Asian Art at Christie's, as its new Chief Executive Officer. Weihe oversees Saffronart's presence in Mumbai, New Delhi, New York and London in building a market for Indian art and antiquities globally.

Responding to the needs of today's collectors, Saffronart offers a range of services including art advisory, private sales, appraisals and valuations, and specialised art storage. Through these personalised services, our dedicated team of professionals provides collectors with a comprehensive set of options to evolve and care for their collections over time. In April 2010, Saffronart leveraged its online presence and global reach to introduce a new service - Prime Properties in India. In 2013 Saffronart launched StoryLTD, an online auction and e-commerce platform to serve a broader base of art and collectibles buyers. Since 2014, StoryLTD has been holding a number of no-reserve online auctions which been enthusiastically received. StoryLTD recently launched its new programme of weekly auctions catering to the growing affordable art market.

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