

LIVING TRADITIONS

Folk and Tribal Art

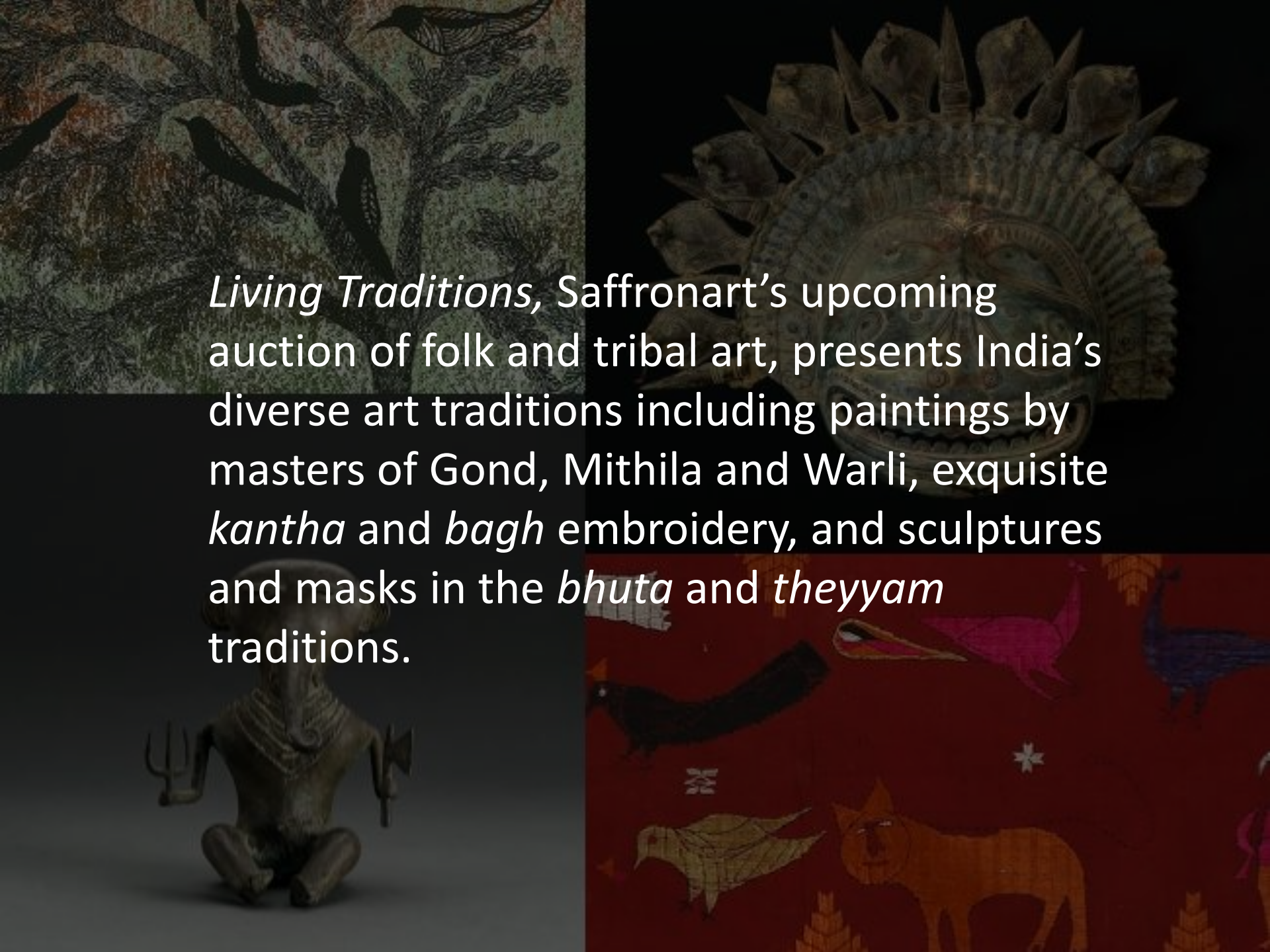
19—20 April 2017

Online Auction

Press Release

SAFFRONART





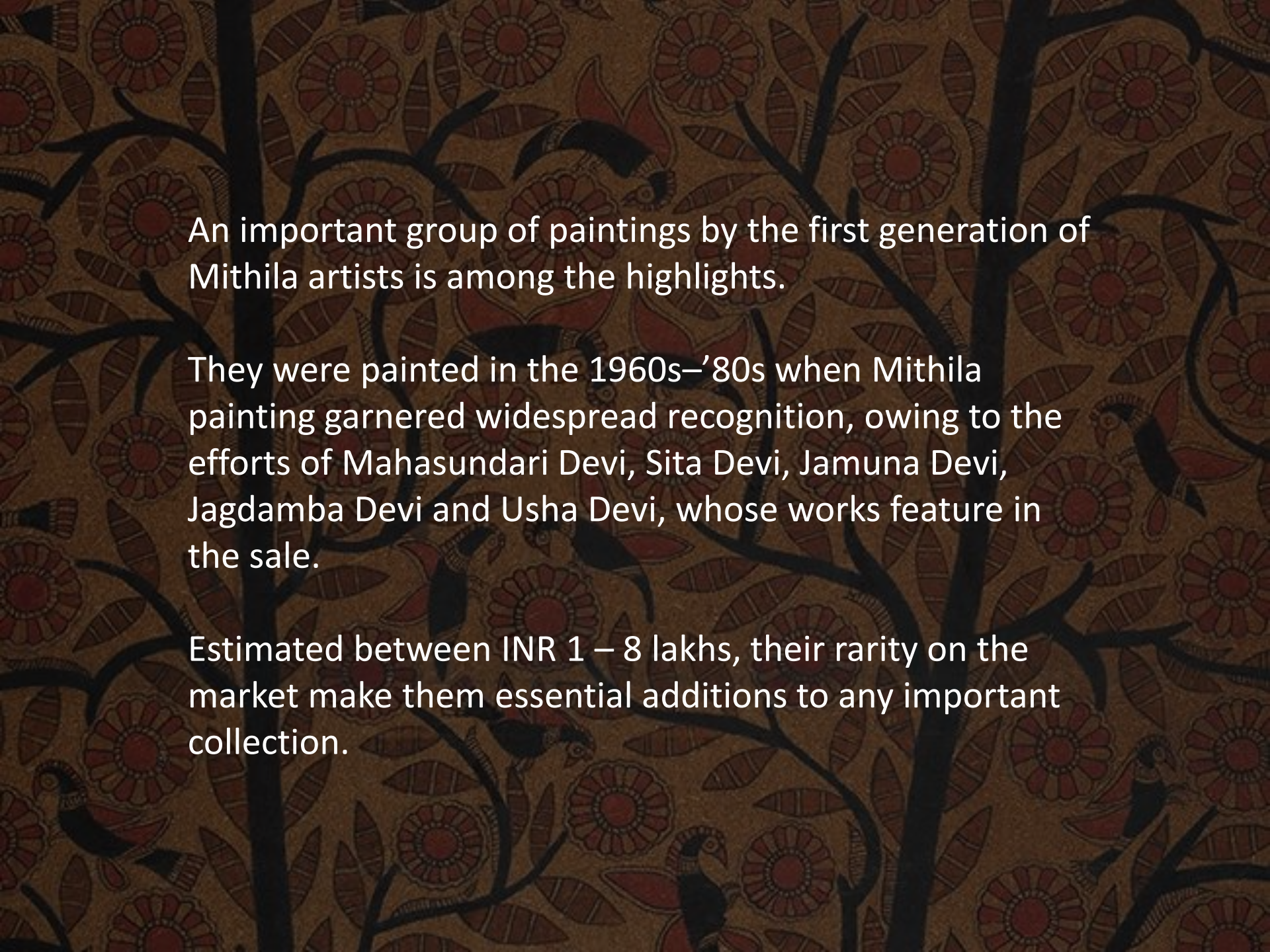
Living Traditions, Saffronart's upcoming auction of folk and tribal art, presents India's diverse art traditions including paintings by masters of Gond, Mithila and Warli, exquisite *kantha* and *bagh* embroidery, and sculptures and masks in the *bhuta* and *theyyam* traditions.



**An 18th century bronze
breastplate from
Karnataka/Kerala (lot 19)**

leads the sale at INR 12 – 15 lakhs. It is a rare and traditional breastplate with subtly detailed cobras.

Part of the *theyyam* tradition, it would have been part of an assemblage for a performance invoking divinity. *Theyyam* performers wear elaborate headgear, masks, breastplates, and ankle and arm ornaments.

The background of the slide is a dense, repeating pattern of Mithila paintings. It features stylized trees with dark, branching trunks and leaves. Interspersed among the foliage are numerous circular motifs, each containing a sun-like face with radiating lines. Small, stylized birds are also visible, perched on the branches. The color palette is primarily earthy, with dark brown or black outlines and a reddish-brown or terracotta fill for the circular motifs and some leaves. The overall texture is intricate and traditional.

An important group of paintings by the first generation of Mithila artists is among the highlights.

They were painted in the 1960s–'80s when Mithila painting garnered widespread recognition, owing to the efforts of Mahasundari Devi, Sita Devi, Jamuna Devi, Jagdamba Devi and Usha Devi, whose works feature in the sale.

Estimated between INR 1 – 8 lakhs, their rarity on the market make them essential additions to any important collection.



Sita Devi, *Kadamba Tree* (lot 49)

Circa 1980

Natural pigments on board

\$ 9,235 – 12,310 | Rs 6,00,000 – 8,00,000

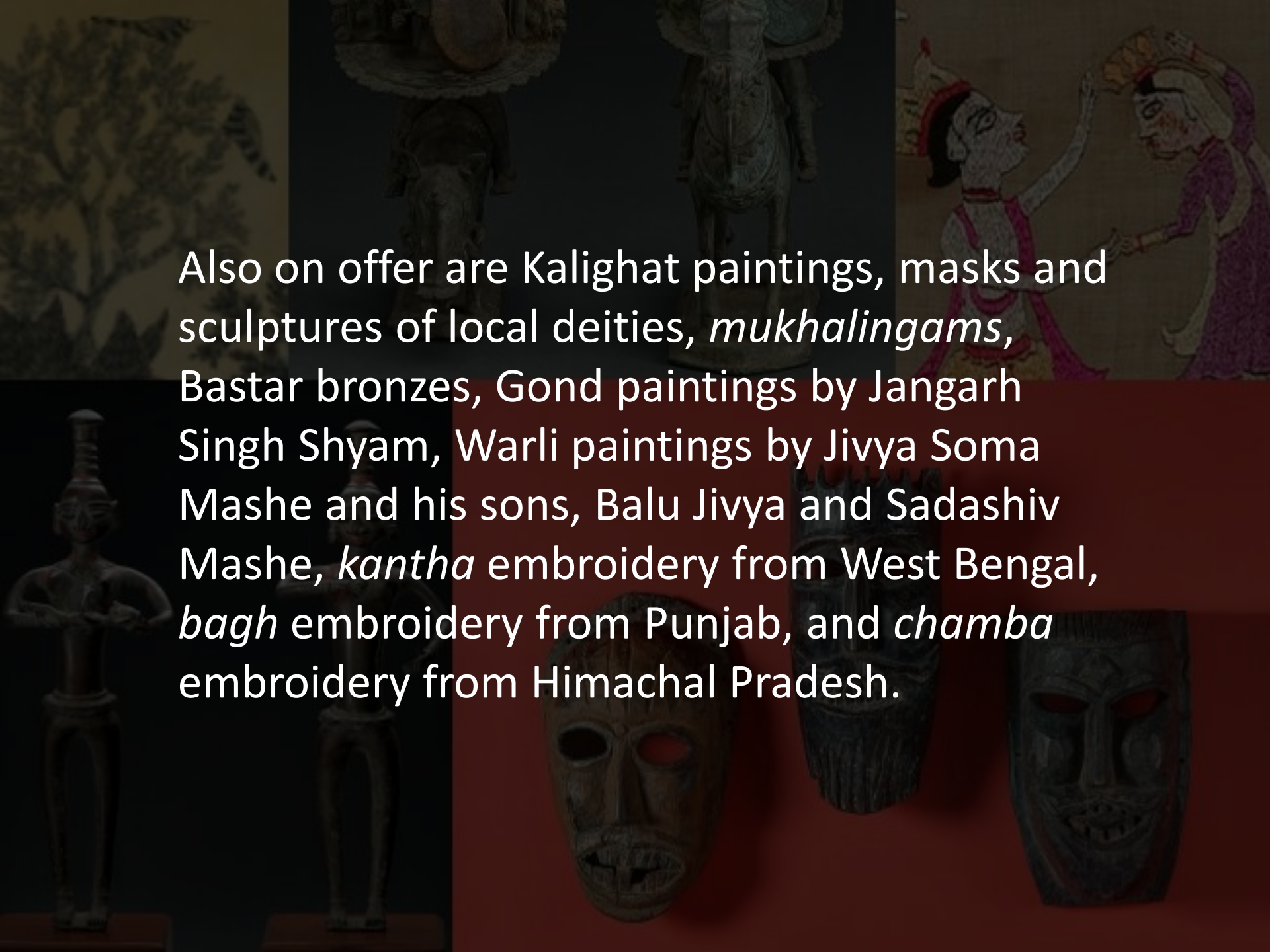


Mahasundari Devi, *Kohbar* (lot 48)

Circa 1970

Natural pigments on paper pasted on cloth

\$ 7,695 – 10,770 | Rs 5,00,000 – 7,00,000

The background of the slide is a collage of various Indian folk art forms. At the top left, there's a Kalighat painting of a tree. In the top center, a sculpture of a deity on a horse. To the top right, a Kalighat painting of two figures. On the left side, two bronze sculptures of standing figures. At the bottom, three wooden masks with different expressions. The text is overlaid on a dark red rectangular area in the center.

Also on offer are Kalighat paintings, masks and sculptures of local deities, *mukhalingams*, Bastar bronzes, Gond paintings by Jangarh Singh Shyam, Warli paintings by Jivya Soma Mashe and his sons, Balu Jivya and Sadashiv Mashe, *kantha* embroidery from West Bengal, *bagh* embroidery from Punjab, and *chamba* embroidery from Himachal Pradesh.



Jangarh Singh Shyam (lot 27)

1997

Acrylic and silkscreen on canvas

\$ 4,620 – 7,695 | Rs 3,00,000 – 5,00,000



Jivya Soma Mashe (lot 66)

Untitled

Cowdung and acrylic on raw canvas

\$ 6,155 – 9,235 | Rs 4,00,000 – 6,00,000



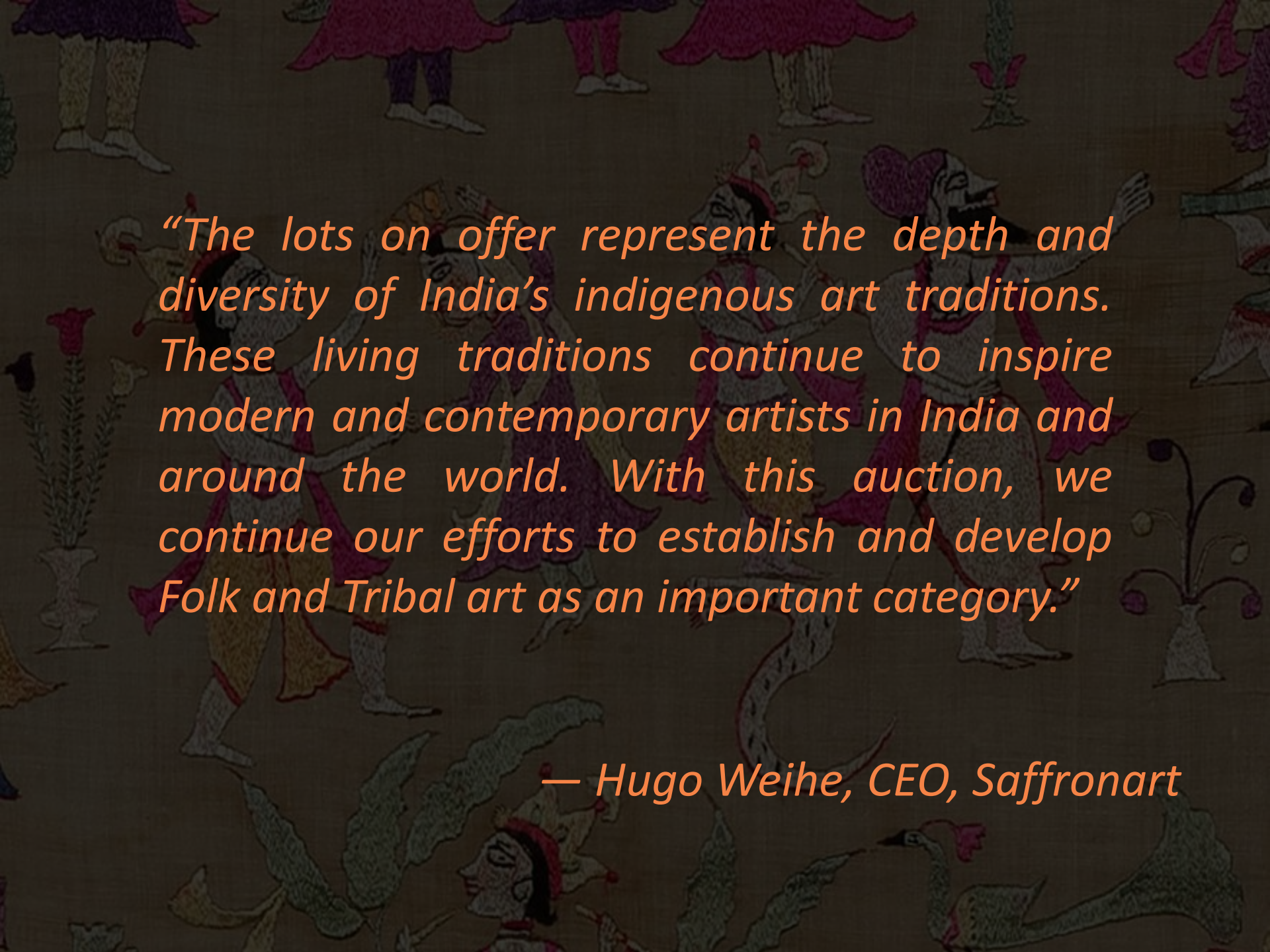
Danteshwari Mata in Chariot (lot 13)

Bastar, Chhattisgarh

Mid 20th Century

Bronze

\$ 1,080 – 1,385 | Rs 70,000 – 90,000



“The lots on offer represent the depth and diversity of India’s indigenous art traditions. These living traditions continue to inspire modern and contemporary artists in India and around the world. With this auction, we continue our efforts to establish and develop Folk and Tribal art as an important category.”

— Hugo Weihe, CEO, Saffronart

AUCTION

19 – 20 April 2017

saffronart.com

VIEWINGS

7 – 20 April 2017

11 am - 7 pm, Monday – Saturday

Sunday by appointment

VENUE

Saffronart

Industry Manor, Ground Floor

Appasaheb Marathe Marg

Prabhadevi, Mumbai 400025



High resolution images available on request. For more information, visit saffronart.com.

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