

Painting of India's First Oscar Winner to be Auctioned by Saffronart in February

Mumbai, 25 January 2017: Saffronart's **Evening Sale** will be held on 16 February 2017 at Saffronart Mumbai. The sale features significant works of modern Indian art. Paintings by V S Gaitonde, Tyeb Mehta, Ram Kumar, M F Husain, and Akbar Padamsee are on offer.

Among the highlights is one of Tyeb Mehta's earliest paintings of the *Falling Figure*, made in 1965, which won a gold medal in the First Triennale of Contemporary World Art in New Delhi in 1968. The falling figure took shape as a result of Mehta witnessing the death of a man falling through a window during the Partition riots in 1947. Mehta's pared down minimalism, light colour and vigorous brushwork create an unlikely juxtaposition with the trauma that is the subject of his work. The present lot is estimated at INR 5 – 7 crores (USD 746,270 – 1 million).

Also on offer is V S Gaitonde's painting of Bhanu Athaiya. A student of Gaitonde at the J J School of Art, Athaiya was the only woman to be part of the Progressive Artists' Group in Bombay. She is an Academy Award winning costume designer in the field of Hindi cinema. She won an Oscar for costume design in Richard Attenborough's 1982 film *Gandhi*—she was the first Indian to do so. Gaitonde immortalises her in this painting which was later acquired by fellow modernist Krishen Khanna. It is estimated at INR 2 – 3 crores (USD 298,510 – 447,765).

A diptych by Akbar Padamsee is being offered at INR 3 – 5 crores (USD 447,765 – 746,270). A continuation of Padamsee's "Mirror Image" series which are imagined landscapes, it offers a glimpse into his meditations on time, space and the duality of perception and reality through form, colour and texture.

Ram Kumar's 1961 landscape, *Benaras*, is an important early work of a subject that became the artist's major preoccupation for the next several decades, marking a transition from his earlier figurative works. The painting is estimated at INR 65 – 85 lakhs (USD 97,015 – 126,870).

An unusual portrait of artist Ram Kumar by M F Husain, estimated between INR 50 – 70 lakhs (USD 74,630 – 104,480), highlights the camaraderie between the two. Husain made the painting to honour Kumar, when the latter was unable to attend a joint exhibition of the two artists in Prague in 1967. It shows a stoic Kumar painted by Husain in Kumar's early figurative style.

CEO Hugo Weihe said, "We are proud to present an extraordinary and carefully curated collection of modern masterpieces. It features leading names including V S Gaitonde, Tyeb Mehta, Ram Kumar, M F Husain and F N Souza. Mehta's *Falling Figure* is one of the earliest versions of his seminal series. Gaitonde's painting of Bhanu is a rare and significant work."

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The auction will be preceded by viewings in New Delhi and Mumbai. All lots can be viewed online on saffronart.com once the catalogue is live.

LIVE AUCTION:

Thursday, 16 February 2017, 7.30 pm
Registrations begin at 6.30 pm
Saffronart, Mumbai

VIEWINGS:

New Delhi

2 - 5 February 2017
11 am - 7 pm

Saffronart
The Claridges
12 Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam Road
New Delhi 110011

Mumbai

11 - 16 February 2017
11 am - 7 pm
Till 3 pm on 16 February 2017

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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.

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