

**Sri Lanka's leading artist to show artworks
at Saffronart, New Delhi from 12-24 January 2018**



L-R: *Butterflies*, 2017; *Dragonflies*, 2015; *Purple Prose*, 2017. Images courtesy of the artist, Saffronart and Grosvenor Gallery

In collaboration with London-based Grosvenor Gallery, Saffronart is holding an exhibition of paintings by Sri Lankan artist **Senaka Senanayake** at The Claridges, New Delhi, from **12–24 January 2018** titled *Mystical Moments: Recent Works by Senaka Senanayake*. The exhibition features a collection of the artist's highly sought-after rain forest paintings.

Born in 1951, Senanayake is one of Sri Lanka's leading artists. He studied Art and Architecture at Yale, which impacted his decision to make a career out of art. Senanayake achieved early fame with an exhibition of works in Colombo in the late 1950s, and his first international solo exhibition in New York at the age of 10. Through his vivid depictions of Sri Lanka's rainforests, Senanayake draws the viewer's attention to their rapid depletion. Each canvas takes two to three weeks to complete, as layer upon layer of paint is added, creating depth and luminescence.

Speaking about his passion for the rainforest, Senanayake says, *"About twenty years ago my cousin, an environmentalist living in Ecuador visited us in Colombo and inspired me to paint images of Sri Lankan fauna and flora. I opted to paint the positive aspects of the rainforest rather than the destruction of it. As an artist, I felt I could use my medium to highlight the need to preserve the remaining rainforests of Sri Lanka where we have lost about 70% of this spectacular and irreplaceable environment."*

Commenting on the exhibition, Abha Housego, Head of Saffronart UK said, *"Saffronart is committed to promoting South Asian art, and we have held several exhibitions in collaboration with leading galleries in Mumbai, New Delhi, London and New York in the past. In collaborating with Grosvenor Gallery, we want to engage a larger and more diverse audience with Senanayake's vibrant paintings of rain forests, and increase awareness beyond Indian art to include contemporary art from the subcontinent."*

Senanayake has held over a hundred exhibitions around the world. His work has been commissioned for the White House in Washington, DC, and the United Nations in New York. Senanayake's paintings are part of several private and public collections. The show is preceded by a preview and a talk by writer and art critic Ina Puri. Artworks from the exhibition can be viewed on saffronart.com.

For further information, high-res images and interview requests please contact Kelsang Dolma:

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L-R: *Heliconias*, 2017; *Rainforest*, 2017; *Dark Lotus*, 2016. Images courtesy of the artist, Saffronart and Grosvenor Gallery

About Saffronart

Founded in 2000 by Minal and Dinesh Vazirani, Saffronart is a leading international auction house, and India's most reputed, with over a hundred auctions to its credit. It is headquartered in Mumbai, with offices in New Delhi, London and New York. At the forefront of selling Indian art, Saffronart holds online and live auctions, exhibitions, and prime property sales throughout the year. Saffronart's focus is to bring transparency to the auction process, and to provide easy access to bidders around the world.

Saffronart's services go beyond auctions to include private sales, art storage, appraisals and valuations for our clients, and supporting the efforts of the Indian art world by holding fundraiser auctions. Saffronart has set several global benchmarks for online auctions, and was the subject of a case study at Harvard Business School in 2005.

Website: www.saffronart.com | **Facebook:** [@saffronart](https://www.facebook.com/saffronart) | **Instagram:** [@saffronartindia](https://www.instagram.com/saffronartindia)

About Grosvenor Gallery, London

Established in 1960, Grosvenor Gallery was set up by Eric Estorick (1913-1993), an American sociologist and writer who moved to England following World War II. The largest and best-equipped gallery at the time, Grosvenor Gallery has housed one of the most important collections of Italian art outside Italy. Grosvenor Gallery has exhibited works by significant names in European art, including Magritte, Picasso, Sironi, Chagall, Lissitzky and Archipenko, and a younger generation that included Michael Ayrton, Jack Smith, Prunella Clough, John Hoskin and Karl Weschke. Grosvenor Gallery was also the principal gallery in the West for modern art from Eastern Europe, and sold art by Soviet and South African artists.

In 2006, Grosvenor Gallery expanded its efforts to promote international art in India and Indian art in the UK. The gallery organised an exhibition of works by Picasso in 2006, and a highly acclaimed exhibition of Lucien Freud, Francis Bacon, Tyeb Mehta and F N Souza in 2007. Grosvenor Gallery was already a well-known name among the Indian art circle, having exhibited works by Souza in 1964. Souza remained a focus for the gallery, with several shows on the artist held between 1998 and 2008. Grosvenor Gallery continues to champion modern and contemporary South Asian art, with exhibitions dedicated to the Bombay Progressives, A R Chughtai, Ismail Gulgee and Sadequain. They have also exhibited works by contemporary artists Rasheed Araeen, Faiza Butt, Olivia Fraser and Dhruva Mistry, among others.

In February 2017, Grosvenor Gallery moved to their new premises at [35 Bury Street, St. James's, London](https://www.grosvenorgallery.com).

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