

Saffronart to Inaugurate New Gallery at The Oberoi, New Delhi on 9 February 2018



Saffronart will open its gallery at the newly refurbished premises of The Oberoi, New Delhi
Image courtesy: The Oberoi, New Delhi

February 2018: India's leading auction house, Saffronart, is returning to The Oberoi, New Delhi, one of the most iconic luxury five-star hotels in the capital. Saffronart, which moved to The Claridges following The Oberoi, New Delhi's closure in 2016, will inaugurate its new gallery with a **preview on 9 February of its upcoming Evening Sale live auction**. Over **sixty works** by leading modern and contemporary artists will be displayed at **The Aravalli** (the newly refurbished banquet hall on the first level) and in Saffronart's new gallery space. Highlights include works by **Nicholas Roerich, Jehangir Sabavala, Bhupen Khakhar and Tyeb Mehta**. The preview coincides with the opening of the India Art Fair, now in its 10th edition.

Saffronart first opened its gallery at The Oberoi, New Delhi in 2011, with a landmark retrospective of works by modernist V S Gaitonde. It has since established itself as a premier exhibition space in the capital. In September 2014, Saffronart held its first live auction at The Oberoi, New Delhi which has seen the sale of several important works of art by leading artists including Jehangir Sabavala, F N Souza, Tyeb Mehta, Akbar Padamsee, S H Raza and G Ravinder Reddy.

CEO Hugo Weihe commented, *"The Oberoi has long been known for its modern, understated elegance, and as a hub for influential clientele and artists over the past six decades. Saffronart's long association with The Oberoi, New Delhi has witnessed the sale of several important works of art in the capital. We are thrilled to return to its stunningly redesigned premises, to welcome our clients there anew and inaugurate our new gallery with a preview of our upcoming live auction."*

Saffronart's *Evening Sale* live auction will be held at The Four Seasons, Mumbai, on 13 March 2018.

Preview

Friday, 9 February 2018, 7.30 pm
The Aravalli and Saffronart, The Oberoi, New Delhi

Viewings

9 - 10 February 2018, 11 am - 7 pm
The Aravalli, The Oberoi, New Delhi

11 - 21 February 2018, 11 am - 7 pm
Monday to Saturday | Sunday by appointment
Saffronart, The Oberoi
Dr Zakir Hussain Marg
New Delhi 110003

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

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HIGHLIGHTS

**Tyeb Mehta, *Falling Bird*, 2002-2004**

Acrylic on canvas.

Saffronart, *Evening Sale*, 13 March 2018. Image courtesy of Saffronart

From his earliest gold-medal winning *Falling Figure* of 1965, to the auction record setting *Falling Figure with Bird* of 1988, Tyeb Mehta gradually combined man with bird to create a composite creature. In this painting, he presents the horror of bodies in free fall, calmly juxtaposed against blue skies. The diagonal line is used to create fractured planes which heighten the reigned-in violence of the captured moment.

**Jehangir Sabavala, *The Star that Beckons*, 1968**

Oil on canvas.

Saffronart, *Evening Sale*, 13 March 2018. Image courtesy of Saffronart

This is the first of three canvases with the same title, which Jehangir Sabavala painted over the course of three decades. *The Star that Beckons* is arguably the finest of the series, emerging from a time when the young artist was looking for his own voice. With its stark landscape and receding horizon, muted colours and haunting absences, the painting draws from a range of artistic, religious and literary references. It comes from the collection of Dermot and Patricia de Trafford of Lancashire, UK. The de Traffords met Sabavala in 1967 in Bombay, and subsequently purchased this painting either directly from him or from an exhibition of his latest work. The painting has been in their country house near Beaulieu in Hampshire, and was later bequeathed to their children.

**Nicholas Roerich, *Untitled***

Tempera on board

Saffronart, *Evening Sale*, 13 March 2018. Image courtesy of Saffronart

Russian artist Nicholas Roerich has been called the “Wizard of Eastern Landscapes”. His paintings of the Himalayas are among his most iconic works, capturing the glory of snow-capped mountain peaks through a masterful interplay of light and shadow. This painting is from the collection of The Kejriwal Family, once owners of tea plantations and textile mills, who were renowned for their extensive art collection. It was gifted to H K Kejriwal by Roerich’s son, Svetoslav, and has been with the family ever since.

In September 2017, a painting by Roerich, titled *Himalayas*, was auctioned by Saffronart in September 2017, and sold for four times its lower estimate at INR 4.8 crores.

**Bhupen Khakar, *Untitled, 2002***

Acrylic on paper

Saffronart, *Evening Sale*, 13 March 2018. Image courtesy of Saffronart

Bhupen Khakar is rapidly rising to earn a place among the most coveted Indian modernists. This painting is possibly a picturesque representation of coastal Ratnagiri. Khakar encloses it within a red border populated with scenes of coastal life. Khakar’s art is predominantly figurative and narrative, and this painting ties the genre he is best known for with the tradition of landscape painting.

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)

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