

Indian Art Community Unites at Saffronart to Raise Over INR 2 Crores for COVID-19 Relief Efforts

- 100% lots sold
- 100% of the proceeds, including the reduced Buyer's Premium, to be donated to nine grassroots non-profit organisations

Mumbai, 21 May 2021: Saffronart's *Art Rises for India*, a 24-hour no-reserve, online fundraiser auction, closed last night, raising over **INR 2 crores (USD 278,321)** to assist on-going COVID-19 relief efforts in the country. Enthusiastic bidding from across the globe resulted in **100% of the lots sold and 46 works crossing their pre-sale estimates**. The sale featured over 120 works of modern and contemporary South Asian art which were generously donated by artists, gallerists, collectors and patrons to support the cause.

All the proceeds from the auction, including the reduced Buyer's Premium, will be **donated to nine grassroots non-profit organisations: Goonj, Hemkunt Foundation, YUVA, Dastkar, FICA, Khoj, Street Survivors, Aangan and Charaka**. These teams deserve a special recognition for their incredible work on the ground to provide medical support and daily sustenance to those living on the margin, having encountered great loss, and/or in need.

Saffronart CEO and Co-founder Dinesh Vazirani said, *"This auction was made possible thanks to the indomitable spirit of the Indian art community that joined hands to raise funds to assist the NGOs doing critical work at the grassroots level during these unprecedented times. We sincerely thank the artists, gallerists, and collectors who have generously donated artworks for this fundraiser auction as well as the members of the art community who have enthusiastically bid on the artworks to contribute. We are humbled by their participation that has allowed us to raise over INR 2 crores to further aid COVID-19 relief efforts across the country."*

The sale was led by an untitled work by **Amrita Sher-Gil (lot 3)**, which sold for INR 15.88 lakhs (USD 22,061), nearly doubling its lower estimate. Other highlights include a 2015 oil on canvas by **A Ramachandran (lot 47)**, which sold for INR 7.32 lakhs (USD 10,175), and **Nilima Sheikh's Wakeful Night 4, 2021 (lot 43)**, which sold for nearly five times its lower estimate at INR 7.26 lakhs (USD 10,083).

Among the contemporary works, **Imran Qureshi's** work on paper titled *When I Thought of You*, 2017 ([lot 101](#)), sold for INR 12.27 lakhs (USD 17,050); **N S Harsha's** *Beginning*, 2019 ([lot 122](#)) sold for INR 6.57 lakhs (USD 9,136); and **Atul Dodiya's** *Houseboat*, 2013 - 2019 ([lot 36](#)), a watercolour on paper, sold for twice its lower estimate at INR 3.01 lakhs (USD 4,186).

View the complete list of participating artists, gallerists, collectors, and patrons from the Indian art community [here](#). Find out more about the NGOs [here](#).

An analysis of the [Art Rises for India auction](#) can be viewed on saffronart.com.

ABOUT SAFFRONART

Founded in 2000 by Minal and Dinesh Vazirani, Saffronart is a leading international auction house, and India's most reputed, with over three hundred auctions to its credit. Its flagship gallery is in Mumbai, with offices in New Delhi, London, and New York. At the forefront of selling Indian art, Saffronart has held online and live auctions, exhibitions, and Dialogues in Art, working with collectors, gallerists, and artists to develop a strong market for art and aesthetics. Its focus is to bring transparency to the auction process and provide easy access and information to collectors around the world. Saffronart's services go beyond auctions to include private sales, appraisals, and valuations for clients. Saffronart has set several global benchmarks for online auctions and was the subject of a case study at Harvard Business School in 2005.

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