

Saffronart and the Indian Art Community to Host COVID–19 Relief Fundraiser Auction

Mumbai, 17 May 2021: The second wave of the COVID–19 pandemic in India has devastated the lives of millions across the country. The number of cases has been rising daily, the death rate has increased, and the livelihoods of many have been impacted. The Indian art community has, therefore, united to raise funds to assist with the ongoing COVID–19 relief efforts through *Art Rises for India*, a **24–hour online no reserve fundraiser auction** hosted by Saffronart on **19 – 20 May 2021**.

Art Rises for India features over **120 works** of modern and contemporary South Asian art, all of which have been 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 **grassroots non-profit organisations**, viz., Goonj, Hemkunt Foundation, YUVA, Dastkar, FICA, Khoj, Street Survivors, Aangan and Charaka, who are working on the ground to provide medical support and daily subsistence to those in need.

The highlights of the fundraiser auction include an untitled work by **Amrita Sher-Gil** ([lot 3](#)), and a watercolour on paper by **Ganesh Haloi** ([lot 42](#)), both estimated at INR 8 – 10 lakhs (USD 11,115 – 13, 890) each; a 2015 oil on canvas by **A Ramachandran** ([lot 47](#)), estimated at INR 7 – 9 lakhs (USD 9,725 – 12,500); **Gieve Patel's** bronze and wood sculpture *Eklavya* ([lot 25](#)), estimated at INR 6 – 8 lakhs (USD 8,335 – 11,115); as well as significant works by **Ram Kumar, Krishen Khanna, K G Subramanyan, Thota Vaikuntam, Sudhir Patwardhan**, and many more.

The contemporary section includes a 2017 work on paper by **Imran Qureshi** titled *When I Thought of You* ([lot 101](#)), estimated at INR 7 – 9 lakhs (USD 9,725 – 12,500); **N S Harsha's** *Beginning*, 2019 ([lot 122](#)), estimated at INR 5 – 7 lakhs (USD 6,945 – 9,725); a set of two works by **Rana Begum** ([lot 94](#)), estimated at INR 3 – 5 lakhs (USD 4,170 – 6,945), as well as works by **Vivan Sundaram, Alyssa Pheobus Mumtaz, Rathin Barman, Natessa Amin** and **Gigi Scaria**, among others.

Saffronart CEO and Co-founder Dinesh Vazirani said, *"We are living in unprecedented times. The harsh reality of the deadly second wave of the COVID–19 virus has compromised the lives of millions across India. All of us have been touched by this tragedy in some way. We, the Indian art community, have decided to join forces in raising funds to assist the NGOs doing critical work at the grassroots level, which includes providing medical support, basic amenities and sustenance to daily labourers, migrant workers, street survivors, artists, artisans, craftspeople, and anyone in need. This online fundraiser auction has come together thanks to the generous donations of several artists, gallerists, and collectors. As we did with our COVID–19 Relief Fundraiser Auction last year, we hope to raise a significant corpus of funds and do our small part in helping those in need."*

Saffronart has previously conducted a COVID–19 Relief Fundraiser Auction in April 2020, a Kerala Flood Relief Fundraiser Auction in August 2018, and has partnered with the Kochi Biennale Foundation for an auction to support flood relief in January 2019. In 2014, Saffronart hosted an auction on its sister website StoryLTD.com, which aimed to help rebuild homes and lives of those affected by the floods in Jammu and Kashmir, and a charity auction in 2008 in aid of victims of severe flooding in Eastern India.

The online auction will take place on [saffronart.com](https://www.saffronart.com) on **19 – 20 May 2021**. All lots can be viewed on the website.

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

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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