

## Saffronart to Host Two Successive Auctions this April

- **Tyeb Mehta's *Untitled (Bull on Rickshaw)*, a rare masterwork by the artist, is one of the leading lots of the Spring Live Auction**
- **Raja Ravi Varma's *Draupadi Vastraharan*, the other leading lot in the Spring Live Auction, and M V Dhurandhar's *Untitled (Draupadi Vastraharan)* go under the hammer for the first time**
- **The Spring Online Auction on 6-7 April features modern and contemporary South Asian art and antiquities**

**Mumbai, 22 March 2022:** Saffronart's annual Spring Auctions return this year with two consecutive sales that feature masterpieces by some of the most distinguished names in modern and contemporary South Asian art.

The **Spring Live Auction** will be held at **Saffronart's Mumbai gallery** on **6 April 2022** and features **55 important works by modern masters** such as Raja Ravi Varma, Tyeb Mehta, Arpita Singh, Meera Mukherjee, M V Dhurandhar, Jamini Roy, and more. The auction is led by two works – **Raja Ravi Varma's *Draupadi Vastraharan, circa 1888-1890***, a painting that has remained in a private collection since it was made and is appearing in auction for the first time, and **Tyeb Mehta's *Untitled (Bull on Rickshaw), 1999***, a rare work that skilfully distils several of the artist's iconic subjects onto one canvas. The sale will be followed by the **Spring Online Auction** on **6-7 April 2022**, which offers an exceptional catalogue of 105 lots that includes antiquities as well as works by modern and contemporary South Asian artists.

**Dinesh Vazirani, Saffronart CEO and Co-Founder** said, *"We are looking forward to opening our auction calendar with this exciting collection of modern and contemporary art as well as antiquities in our Spring Live and Online Auctions. One of the leading lots of our live auction is Tyeb Mehta's *Untitled (Bull on Rickshaw)*, painted in 1999 – a powerful work that brings together several of the iconic and recurring subjects and elements that have been part of the artist's oeuvre, giving it the quality of a retrospective contained within a single canvas. The other leading lot from the live auction is Raja Ravi Varma's *Draupadi Vastraharan, circa 1888-1890* – an important work that highlights the artist's prowess as a master storyteller. Believed to have been missing for several years, it is a historically significant and rare painting to appear in auction. Apart from this, the live and online auctions have an intriguing selection of works with exceptional provenances, some of which have rarely appeared in auction before. Both auctions offer first-time and experienced art collectors and connoisseurs a marvellous opportunity to acquire some of the best that South Asian art has to offer."*

### SPRING LIVE AUCTION | 6 APRIL 2022

The Spring Live Auction is led by **Raja Ravi Varma's *Draupadi Vastraharan, circa 1888-1890*** ([Lot 13](#), estimate: **INR 15 – 20 crores; USD 2.02 – 2.7 million**). Depicting a critical scene from the *Mahabharata* – that of Draupadi's *vastraharan* – this powerful composition is a strong example of how Ravi Varma represented mythological characters in a natural human style rather than the traditional supernatural imagery used to convey gods, goddesses and their myths or tales, creating paintings of great resonance. The painting, which was acquired by one of the shareholders of the Ravi Varma Press and was also used

as an exemplar for the printing of oleographs, has remained in a private collection for several decades and is appearing in auction for the first time this April.

The other lot leading the Spring Live Auction is **Tyeb Mehta's *Untitled (Bull on Rickshaw)*, 1999** ([Lot 46](#), estimate: **INR 29.6 – 37 crores; USD 4 – 5 million**), a rare and unparalleled celebration of the powerful icons and subjects that have come to embody the artist's distinguished oeuvre. Depicting a trussed bull set upon a rickshaw, caught in an endless downward spiral, this unique masterwork highlights the potency of Mehta's recurring subjects.

Among the highlights is **M V Dhurandhar's *Untitled (Draupadi Vastraharan)*, 1934** ([Lot 15](#), estimate: **INR 4 – 6 crores; USD 540,545 – 810,815**), which depicts the same moment from the *Mahabharata* as done by Ravi Varma. While Dhurandhar's choice of representing the same scene as Ravi Varma is perhaps an homage to an artist he admired greatly, the lot is painted in a manner that is typical of his style, reflecting elements of his late Victorian stylistic sensibility.

Other highlights include an oil on canvas by **Arpita Singh**, titled ***Twenty-seven Ducks of Memory*, 1996** ([Lot 25](#), estimate: **INR 1.5 – 2 crores; USD 202,705 – 270,275**); a monumental bronze sculpture by **Meera Mukherjee**, titled ***Balance*** ([Lot 41](#), estimate: **INR 4 – 5 crores; USD 540,545 – 675,680**); an early oil on canvas by **Jehangir Sabavala** ([Lot 48](#), estimate: **INR 1.85 – 2.59 crores, USD 250 – 350,000**); and **N S Bendre's *Untitled (Two Women Working)*, 1968** ([Lot 32](#), estimate: **INR 1 – 1.5 crores, USD 135,140 – 202,705**).

The live auction also includes three works from the collection of Jeroo Vakil Mango – an untitled oil on canvas from **1959** by **M F Husain** ([Lot 10](#), estimate: **INR 90 lakhs – 71.3 crores; USD 121,625 – 175,680**); **Manjit Bawa's *Untitled*, 1979** ([Lot 11](#), estimate: **INR 50 – 70 lakhs; USD 67,570 – 94,595**); and an untitled sculpture by **Piloo Pochkanawala** ([Lot 12](#), estimate: **INR 30 – 50 lakhs; USD 40,545 – 67,570**).

The Live Auction will take place at the Saffronart gallery in Mumbai and is preceded by viewings (by prior appointment) in London, Mumbai, and New Delhi. All lots can be viewed [online](#) on saffronart.com.

### SPRING ONLINE AUCTION | 6-7 APRIL 2022

The Spring Online Auction follows the Live Auction and features an **antiquity section** that includes sculptures in brass, bronze, and stone, among other materials, as well as wooden works and paintings. Some highlights include **Lord Buddha with Arch**, a 17<sup>th</sup> century bronze sculpture from Nepal ([Lot 58](#), estimate: **INR 25 – 35 lakhs; USD 33,785 – 47,300**); **Dwarapala**, an 11<sup>th</sup> century granite sculpture from Southern India ([Lot 61](#), estimate: **INR 30 – 40 lakhs; USD 40,545 – 54,055**); as well as a **Wooden Panel** from 16<sup>th</sup> century Kerala ([Lot 63](#), estimate: **INR 12 – 18 lakhs; USD 16,220 – 24,325**).

Highlights from the contemporary section include an oil on canvas by **Surendran Nair** titled ***Mohini: An Actor at Rehearsal, (Epiphany) Cuckoonebulopolis*, 2014-2015** ([Lot 150](#), estimate: **INR 20 – 30 lakhs, USD 27,030 – 40,545**); an acrylic on canvas by **Jitish Kallat** titled ***Ctrl>Alt>Esc*, 2005** ([Lot 149](#), estimate: **INR 15 – 20 lakhs, USD 20,275 – 27,030**); as well as works by **Shibu Natesan** ([Lot 152](#), estimate: **INR 22.2 – 37 lakhs, USD 30,000 – 50,000**), **T V Santhosh** ([Lot 153](#), estimate: **INR 15 – 20 lakhs, USD 20,275 – 27,030**), and **Rashid Rana** ([Lot 147](#), estimate: **INR 35 – 45 lakhs, USD 47,300 – 60,815**).

The Online Auction will take place on [saffronart.com](http://saffronart.com) and is preceded by viewings (by prior appointment) in London, Mumbai, and New Delhi. All lots can be viewed [online](http://saffronart.com) on [saffronart.com](http://saffronart.com).

**AUCTION DATES**

Spring Live Auction | 6 April 2022, Mumbai, 7.30 pm  
Spring Online Auction | 6 - 7 April 2022 on [saffronart.com](http://saffronart.com)

**VIEWINGS BY APPOINTMENT**

**LONDON**

11 am – 6 pm  
Monday to Friday  
(Weekends by appointment)

**VENUE**

73 New Bond Street  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
London, W1S 1RS

To make an appointment, please contact +44 20 7409 7974 or email us at [london@saffronart.com](mailto:london@saffronart.com)

**MUMBAI**

11 am – 6.30 pm  
Monday to Friday  
(Weekends by appointment)

**VENUE**

Saffronart, Industry Manor, Ground Floor  
Appasaheb Marathe Marg  
Prabhadevi, Mumbai 400025

To make an appointment, please contact +91 22 6855 4100 or email us at [auktion@saffronart.com](mailto:auktion@saffronart.com)

**NEW DELHI**

11 am – 6.30 pm  
Monday to Friday  
(Weekends by appointment)

**VENUE**

Saffronart, The Oberoi  
Dr. Zakir Hussain Marg  
New Delhi 110003

To make an appointment, please contact +91 11 2436 9415/16 or email us at [delhi@saffronart.com](mailto:delhi@saffronart.com)

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**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.

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

**Press Contact**

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