

**Amrita Sher-Gil Leads Saffronart's Flagship Evening Sale
in New Delhi this September**

- **The *Story Teller*, 1937, by Amrita Sher-Gil, an iconic work that leads Saffronart's Evening Sale this September**
- **Anchor works by modern masters V S Gaitonde and S H Raza, and early works by Tyeb Mehta, M F Husain, F N Souza, and Akbar Padamsee**
- **The sales will also feature significant works from the esteemed collection of Jane and Kito de Boer**

Mumbai, 23 August 2023: Saffronart returns with its annual flagship **Evening Sale** in New Delhi this September, which features 78 exceptional works by prominent Indian artists, with many curated from distinguished collections.

The live auction will take place at **The Oberoi, New Delhi** on **16 September 2023** and will feature works by pioneers of modern Indian art, including Amrita Sher-Gil, V S Gaitonde, S H Raza, Tyeb Mehta, F N Souza, Akbar Padamsee and M F Husain.

The sale is led by **Amrita Sher-Gil's *The Story Teller***, executed in **1937** ([Lot 13](#), estimate: **INR 28 - 38 crores; USD 3.41 – 4.63 million**), during an important formative period in the artist's oeuvre that saw her European and Indian influences merge into a unique artistic language. It is also significant for being one of the few works that she painted *en plein air*. The dominant subjects are women—who feature in many of her works—depicted as close-knit figures, crafting an inherent intimacy within the canvas. The work is an example of the artist's most honest and expressive compositions, one that Sher-Gil herself was especially fond of as evidenced by the numerous mentions of this work in her letters.

One of the most important lots in the sale is **V S Gaitonde's *Untitled*, 1970 - 1972** ([Lot 39](#), estimate: **INR 20 - 30 crores; USD 2.43 - 3.65 million**), a vibrant yellow canvas completed a year after he was awarded the Padma Shri by the Government of India. Also featured is a monumental work by **S H Raza, *Earth*, 1986** ([Lot 49](#), estimate: **INR 18 - 26 crores; USD 2.19 - 3.17 million**), painted during a pivotal phase in his oeuvre that's characterised by the heightened development of geometric symbolism that culminated in the *bindu*, a motif which he is best known for; and **Tyeb Mehta's *Red Figure*** from circa 1950s ([Lot 57](#), estimate: **INR 8 - 12 crores; USD 975,610 - 1,463,415**), a rare painting by the artist that is rendered in his early Expressionist style.

Also included in the sale are 16 significant lots from the **collection of Jane and Kito de Boer**, which includes at least 1,000 modern Indian artworks, making it among the largest of its kind in private hands. Representing critical periods in Indian art history, these compelling works that go under the hammer include early drawings by F N Souza—***Untitled*, 1952** ([Lot 18](#), estimate: **INR 3.5 - 5 lakhs; USD 4,270 - 6,100**), ***Untitled (Study for Beasts of Prey)*, 1962** ([Lot 19](#), estimate: **INR 3.5 - 5 lakhs; USD 4,270 - 6,100**), and ***Untitled*, 1958** ([Lot 17](#), estimate: **INR 3.5 - 5 lakhs; USD 4,270 - 6,100**); a work by Akbar Padamsee

from a key transitional phase in his oeuvre titled ***Paysage, 1961*** ([Lot 24](#), estimate: INR 2 - 3 crores; USD 243,905 - 365,855); and two rare 1960s works by M F Husain—***Untitled (Family), 1961*** ([Lot 22](#), estimate: INR 1.2 - 2 crores, USD 146,345 - 243,905) and ***Untitled (Varanasi), circa 1960s*** ([Lot 23](#), estimate: INR 70 lakhs - 1 crore; USD 85,370 - 121,955).

Other highlights from the de Boer's collection include a poignant tempera by **Ganesh Pyne** titled ***The Hand (Self-Portrait), 1998*** ([Lot 29](#), estimate: INR 1.2 - 1.5 crores; USD 146,345 - 182,930) and seminal works by **A Ramachandran** such as ***Autobiography of an Insect in the Lotus Pond, 2000*** ([Lot 31](#), estimate: INR 85 lakhs - 1.2 crores; USD 103,660 - 146,345) and ***Visions of Ramdev - Ahalya in Red, 2001*** ([Lot 30](#), estimate: INR 35 - 50 lakhs; USD 42,685 - 60,980).

Commenting on the auction, **Dinesh Vazirani, Saffronart CEO and Co-Founder** says, *"We are delighted to return to New Delhi with our flagship auction, the Evening Sale. The catalogue is an exciting one and includes some incredible works by India's modern masters that are of unique significance. Our leading lot, The Story Teller by Amrita Sher-Gil, highlights the artist's nuanced and empathetic depiction of Indian life, in particular the intimate lives of women who frequently feature in her oeuvre. The powerful work by V S Gaitonde that also goes under the hammer in this auction is a sublime example of his meticulous, meditative process and unique artistic vocabulary that distinguishes him as one of India's greatest modernists. Among other top lots are early works by Tyeb Mehta, M F Husain, and Akbar Padamsee, the latter two made even more compelling by their distinguished provenance as part of the collection of Jane and Kito de Boer, a remarkable collection that illuminates vital periods in Indian art history."*

The sale also includes **sculptures** in bronze, brass, burnt wood, cement and other mediums. Highlights from this section include **Himmat Shah's *Untitled*** ([Lot 33](#), estimate: INR 18 - 24 lakhs; USD 21,955 - 29,270), **A Ramachandran's *Untitled, 1997*** ([Lot 32](#), INR 15 - 18 lakhs; USD 18,295 - 21,955), **Satish Gujral's *Untitled*** ([Lot 36](#), estimate: INR 12 - 18 lakhs; USD 14,635 - 21,955) and **Sankho Chaudhuri's *Untitled, circa 1980s*** ([Lot 37](#), estimate: INR 7 - 9 lakhs; USD 8,540 - 10,980).

Among other important works up for auction are **Zarina Hashmi's *River of Tears, 2007*** ([Lot 76](#), estimate: INR 65 - 85 lakhs; USD 79,270 - 103,660), **Jamini Roy's *Untitled*** ([Lot 5](#), estimate: INR 40 - 60 lakhs; USD 48,785 - 73,175) and **Jogen Chowdhury's *Reminiscence of a Dream 12, 1969*** ([Lot 62](#), estimate: INR 80 lakhs - 1 crore; USD 97,565 - 121,955).

The live auction will take place at The Oberoi, New Delhi, and is preceded by viewings in Mumbai and New Delhi. All lots can be viewed [online](#) at saffronart.com.

AUCTION DATES

Live Auction | 16 September 2023, 7.30 pm

VENUE

Ballroom, The Oberoi
Dr Zakir Hussain Marg
New Delhi 110003

PREVIEW IN NEW DELHI

Thursday, 14 September 2023
6.30 pm to 10.30 pm
Ballroom, The Oberoi, Dr Zakir Hussain Marg

VIEWINGS (SUNDAY BY APPOINTMENT)

MUMBAI

24 August – 7 September 2023
11 am – 7 pm, Monday to Saturday;
Sunday, 3 September
(All other Sundays by appointment only)

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 auction@saffronart.com

NEW DELHI

12 – 13 September 2023
11 am – 7 pm, Monday to Saturday
(Sundays by appointment only)

VENUE

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

15 September 2023
11 am – 7 pm
16 September 2023
12 pm – 5 pm

Ballroom, The Oberoi
Dr Zakir Hussain Marg
New Delhi 110003

To make an appointment, please contact +91 11 2436 9415 or email us at 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.

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