

Bulls (2005 – 2007), Tyeb Mehta’s Final Work, Leads Saffronart’s Summer Online Auction 2023

Mumbai, 8 June 2023: Saffronart returns with its annual **Summer Online Auction** on **28 – 29 June 2023** and features 102 works by leading modern and contemporary South Asian artists as well as indigenous art, many of which hail from reputed collections in India and internationally.

Leading the 24-hour online auction is ***Bulls, 2005 – 2007*** ([Lot 49](#), estimate: **INR 28,70,00,000 – 36,90,00,000; USD 3,500,000 – 4,500,000**) by **Tyeb Mehta**. No conversation about Mehta’s career as an artist is complete without this final work, which was produced during the last few years of his life. The monumentality in size and scale of the diptych embodies the development of the pivotal iconography of the bull, a subject that defines his oeuvre. Another highlight lot is ***Untitled (Two Figures)***, a painting by **Ram Kumar** from **1960** ([Lot 30](#), estimate: **INR 2,46,00,000 – 4,10,00,000; USD 300,000 – 500,000**). This work marks what would soon be recognised as the end of the modernist’s early figurative phase and his foray into abstraction, a style that would later come to define his body of art.

Dinesh Vazirani, Saffronart CEO and Co-Founder said, *“We are excited to present significant works by some of the best modern and contemporary South Asian artists at our Summer Online Auction. Among our leading lots is Bulls (2005 - 2007) by Tyeb Mehta, which features on the cover of our catalogue. The bull as a subject has dominated Mehta’s illustrious career, symbolising struggle, powerlessness, strength, and dignity. Monumental in scale, this diptych is a culmination of the artist’s lifetime quest to articulate the pain and struggle of day-to-day existence through the iconography of the bull. With fragmented planes and twin silhouettes of bulls tumbling downwards, the work is also an apogee of Mehta’s endeavour towards pure minimalism. Another featured lot in this auction is Untitled (Two Friends), a 1960 painting by Ram Kumar. Among the last of his works to feature figurative forms, this lot marks the artist’s foray into abstraction, which he would go on to perfect over the rest of his career. These present lots thus represent significant milestones in these artists’ respective careers and are a great opportunity for anyone looking to own a masterpiece.”*

Other significant modern works that feature in the sale include ***Bindu, 1990*** ([Lot 39](#), estimate: **INR 1,64,00,000 – 2,46,00,000; USD 200,000 – 300,000**) and ***(Untitled) Red Road, 1960*** ([Lot 9](#), estimate: **INR 35,00,000 – 45,00,000; USD 42,685 – 54,880**) by **S H Raza**; ***Untitled, 1962***, an ink on paper work by **V S Gaitonde** ([Lot 12](#), estimate: **INR 65,60,000 – 98,40,000; USD 80,000 – 120,000**); ***Untitled (Insect), 1955***, an unusual oil and graphite work by **F N Souza** ([Lot 46](#), estimate: **INR 8,20,000 – 12,30,000; USD 10,000 – 15,000**); an early gouache and a tempera by **Ganesh Pyne**, titled ***Two Friends, 1963***, ([Lot 28](#), estimate: **INR 4,92,000 – 6,56,000; USD 6,000 – 8,000**) and ***Sleep, 2005***, ([Lot 73](#), estimate: **INR 1,50,00,000 – 2,00,00,000; USD 182,930 – 243,905**), respectively; ***Untitled***, a **1989** work by **M F Husain** inspired by Mother Teresa ([Lot 56](#), estimate: **INR 1,00,00,000 – 1,50,00,000; USD 121,955 – 182,930**); ***Annapurna Feeding Lord Shiva***, an early Bengal School oil ([Lot 4](#), estimate: **INR 5,74,000 – 7,38,000; USD 7,000 – 9,000**); ***Untitled (Colour Geometry of Space Series)***, circa **1960s**, by **Jagdish Swaminathan** ([Lot 33](#),

estimate: INR 32,80,000 – 49,20,000; USD 40,000 – 60,000); *Untitled* ([Lot 71](#), estimate: INR 48,00,000 - 58,00,000; USD 58,540 - 70,735) by Satish Gujral, and more.

The auction also includes a strong collection of works by contemporary artists, such as *I Beg Your Pardon: The Scorpion Act II – An Actor Meditating on a Character of an Imaginary Play (Cuckoonebulopolis)*, 2002, ([Lot 88](#), estimate: INR 20,00,000 – 30,00,000; USD 24,395 – 36,590) by Surendran Nair; and a dynamic installation by Rana Begum titled *No 494, 2014* ([Lot 96](#), estimate: INR 28,00,000 – 32,00,000; USD 34,150 – 39,025); and five works by leading Gond artist Jangarh Singh Shyam, including *Raksa, Hiran (Raksa, Deer)*, 1995 ([Lot 102](#), estimate: INR 6,00,000 – 8,00,000; USD 7,320 – 9,760)

The Summer Online Auction 2023 will take place on saffronart.com and is preceded by viewings (by prior appointment) in London, Mumbai, and New Delhi. All lots can be viewed [online](#) on saffronart.com.

AUCTION DATES

Summer Online Auction | 28 – 29 June 2023 on saffronart.com

PREVIEWS AND VIEWINGS

LONDON

Preview

Wednesday, 21 June 2023
6pm – 8pm

Venue

Saffronart
73 New Bond Street
1st Floor
London, W1S 1RS

Viewings

14 June – 28 June 2023
11am – 6pm, Monday to Friday
Saturday, Sunday
(by appointment only)

To make an appointment, please contact +44 20 7409 7974 or email us at london@saffronart.com

MUMBAI

Viewings

5 June – 28 June 2023
11am – 7pm, Monday to Saturday
Sunday (by appointment only)

Venue

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

Viewings

5 June – 28 June 2023

11am – 7pm, Monday to Saturday

Sunday (by appointment only)

Venue

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

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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