

Monumental works by Subodh Gupta and Bharti Kher lead Saffronart's Contemporary South Asian Art sale on 21 - 22 October 2024

- Saffronart's Contemporary South Asian Art sale will take place online on 21 - 22 October 2024.
- The catalogue features an extraordinary selection of 55 lots by leading artists such as Subodh Gupta, Bharti Kher, Jitish Kallat, Anju Dodiya, Tallur L N, and others.
- Prior to the sale, select lots can be viewed in Mumbai, New Delhi and London at the respective Saffronart Galleries, until 22nd October 2024.

Mumbai, 7 October 2024: Saffronart presents its **Contemporary South Asian Art sale on 21-22 October 2024** which features an extraordinary selection of 55 lots by leading artists such as Subodh Gupta, Bharti Kher, Jitish Kallat, Anju Dodiya, Tallur L N, and others. The sale will be preceded by viewings in Mumbai, New Delhi and London.

The online auction will feature ***Other Thing, 2005-06* (lot 12, estimate: USD 150,000 - 250,000, INR 1.24 – 2.07 crores)** by **Subodh Gupta**. The artist's name has become synonymous with the stainless steel utensils that are ubiquitous across Indian households. In the present lot, he arranges the humble *chimta* or pair of steel tongs, commonly used to flip *chappatis*, into a striking metallic sculpture. He transcends the banal nature of this ordinary tool by amassing it and arranging it into a glittering object of luxury and awe, thereby prompting a discussion on mass industrialisation and the inherent socio-economic disparity prevalent in urban India.

Also included in the sale are works by **Bharti Kher**, who is renowned for her versatility across various mediums—paintings, textiles, sculptures, and collages. In ***Invisible People, 2006*, (lot 13, estimate: USD 180,000 - 220,000, INR 1.49 - 1.82 crores)**, Kher approaches the subject of migration and identity through *bindis*. She ingeniously uses *bindis* to reference satellite photographs of terrain and maps of demographic clusters often used when talking about population changes. Another lot by Kher is ***Imposter, 2004*, (lot 14, estimate: USD 28,000 - 32,000, INR 23.24 - 26.56 lakhs)** which features two part-human, part-primate figures. Her sculptures are at the heart of her practice, often featuring hybrid characters that blur the lines between humans, nature, and politics. In such animal sculptures, she explores her enduring interest in nature and the animal kingdom, viewing them not just as integral parts of an intertwined ecological system but also interrogating their rich symbolic potential.

***Autosaurus Tripous, 2007* (lot 3, estimate: USD 80,000 - 120,000, INR 66.40 - 99.60 lakhs)** by Jitish

Kallat features an osteal rickshaw that cuts a playful figure that Kallat describes as “grotesque, burlesque and arabesque in equal measure.” The rickshaw is a recurring motif in Kallat’s oeuvre; he takes his inspiration from the streets of Mumbai. It is the first in a series of sculptures that present vehicles as wasted animal carcasses as a commentary on the destructive nature of mobs. ***Saving Face, 2006*** ([lot 41](#), estimate: INR 35 - 45 lakhs, USD 42,170 - 54,220) is a figurative sculpture by **Tallur L N**. His works draw inspiration from many subcontinental sculptural traditions like Jain sculptures featuring the *tirthankaras*, Buddhist art, and classical bronzes of the Chola and Vijayanagara empires among others.

Twig Detail, 2005 ([lot 21](#), estimate: INR 24 – 32 lakhs, USD 28,920 - 38,555) is a mixed media work by Anju Dodiya centring the figure of a woman in repose. The soft tonality of her skin and clothes lends a leisurely contemplative mood to the piece. The body is the most expressive element in Anju Dodiya’s works as she believes that the body is the repository of one’s emotions and deepest fears. The sale also features ***Untitled (Playground), 2002*** ([lot 23](#), estimate: USD 20,000 - 30,000, INR 16.60 - 24.90 lakhs) by **Nataraj Sharma**. His art often delves into the complex and inescapable relationship between humans and machines in today’s industrialised world. His visually striking and often grand works evoke the unpredictable confluence of nature, civilization, and industrialization. Urbanscapes like the present lot distil these forces to their essentials, uncovering deeper, more intricate dynamics.

Dinesh Vazirani, Saffronart CEO and Co-Founder said, *“The catalogue from our upcoming auction of contemporary art, with works from leading artists such as Subodh Gupta, Bharti Kher, Jitish Kallat, and Anju Dodiya, together paints a picture of the true strength of South Asian art today. Several of these works embody the essence of these artists’ practices whether it’s Gupta’s simultaneous celebration and critique of Indian culture through the use of stainless steel utensils ubiquitous to Indian homes; Kher’s use of the bindi to create a wonderfully layered commentary on identity, ritual and womanhood; or Kallat’s clever, almost playful approach to examining decay and destruction in urban India.”*

The auction will take place on the Saffronart website and will be preceded by viewings of select lots in Mumbai, Delhi and London. All lots are published in the printed catalogue and e-catalogue and can be viewed on saffronart.com.

AUCTION DATES

Contemporary South Asian Art | 21 - 22 October 2024 on saffronart.com

VIEWINGS

MUMBAI

4 October - 22 October 2024
11 am – 7 pm, 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

7 October - 22 October 2024
11 am - 7 pm, 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 24369415 or email us at auction@saffronart.com

LONDON

7 October - 22 October 2024
11 am - 6 pm, Monday to Friday

VENUE

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

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

PRESS RELEASE

SAFFRONART

Website: www.saffronart.com | **Facebook:** @saffronart | **Instagram:** @saffronartindia

Press Contact

Rena Vora | pr@saffronart.com