

Saffronart Celebrates Krishen Khanna's Centenary Year with Exhibition, 'My Sketchbook in Colour', and Book Launch

- Saffronart is hosting **My Sketchbook in Colour**, an exhibition of hand-painted, mixed media works by Krishen Khanna that explore key themes in his oeuvre in New Delhi this September
- The opening of the exhibition was accompanied by the launch of **In My 100th Year**, a book published by Saffronart and Aleph Book Company in celebration of the artist's life and work ahead of his centenary year
- The exhibition opening also included a display of unique timepieces, featuring the artist's iconic *bandwallas*, created in collaboration between **Swiss watchmakers Deguiret** and **Krishen Khanna**

New Delhi, 16 September 2024: Saffronart is delighted to present **My Sketchbook in Colour**, an exhibition of works by renowned modern Indian artist Krishen Khanna in anticipation of his centenary year. The exhibition showcases important works by Khanna, reproduced in limited editions of three prints. These large-scale prints have been meticulously hand-painted, transforming them into unique pieces of art while preserving the essence of the original drawings.

Several of the works in the exhibition (**lots [1](#), [4](#), [8](#), [18](#), [39](#), [46](#)**) feature *bandwallas* and other musicians—among Khanna's most iconic motifs from his six-decade career. A deeply humanist painter, Khanna has frequently focused on the subaltern in his work. Cast in numerous mediums over the years, these *bandwallas* first emerged in the artist's paintings in the early 1970s and have served as a form of social commentary on an incongruous relic of India's colonial past and the class divide that continues to exist in urban Indian spaces. These works reflect not only his technical virtuosity as a draughtsman but also his ability to bring his observations to life on canvas with spontaneity and exuberance, while maintaining the representational elements of his subjects.

The opening of the exhibition was accompanied by the launch of the book **In My 100th Year**, **published by Saffronart and Aleph Book Company** in honour of the life and work of the beloved artist who turns 100 next year. The paintings in this book showcase his extraordinary ability as a painter and a genius at capturing the lives of the people around him. The photographs celebrate his life, relationships, and achievements, both giving us a complete and alluring portrait of Krishen Khanna, the man, and artistic genius.

The book launch also featured a display of a collection of unique watches crafted by Swiss watchmakers Deguiret in collaboration with the artist. These timepieces carry forth the motif of

Khanna's iconic *bandwallas* by beautifully capturing their essence on their dials in Georgian cloisonné enamel and 24-carat gold wire, making them each a truly one-of-a-kind collector's item. Each piece has been assembled in Switzerland with a Peseux calibre mechanical hand-wound movement and bespoke French alligator leather strap.

Minal Vazirani and Dinesh Vazirani, Saffronart Co-Founders said, *"Saffronart is delighted and honoured to present this exhibition of works by Krishen Khanna, as the artist turns 100 next year. This milestone coincides with Saffronart's own 25th anniversary in 2025. As one of modern Indian art's greatest living artists, his genius lies not just in his extraordinary ability as a painter and draughtsman but in his capacity to empathise with and capture the lives of those around him, often ordinary folk who go unnoticed by society. His contribution to Indian art over six decades has been immense, both in his body of work and as a keeper of the history of early post-Independence India and Indian modernism. This exhibition is also of great personal significance as Khanna has been a friend, mentor, and guide to us. Having crossed continents to study in England, to returning to a newly independent India in a state of flux, to rising in the world of banking and then to having the courage to step away and chart a pivotal career as an artist he truly is an inspiration."*

PREVIEW AND BOOK LAUNCH IN NEW DELHI

Thursday, 12 September 2024

7 pm onwards

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

RSVP: exhibition@saffronart.com | +91 11 2436 9415

EXHIBITION VIEWINGS

NEW DELHI

13 - 21 September 2024

11 am – 7 pm, Monday to Saturday

Closed on Sunday

VENUE

Saffronart, The Oberoi

Dr Zakir Hussain Marg

New Delhi 110003

To make an appointment or enquire, please contact +91 11 24369415 or email us at exhibition@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

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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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