

## Saffronart's Contemporary South Asian Art Auction Concludes with Multiple Artist Records

- Saffronart's Online Auction of Contemporary South Asian Art concluded on 22 October 2024, achieving a total sales value of INR 7.84 crores (USD 939,189).
- The leading lot of the sale, *Other Thing, 2005-06* by Subodh Gupta, sold for USD 240,000 (INR 2 crores).
- Naiza Khan and Tayeba Begum Lipi set artist records globally with lots that sold at INR 14.40 lakhs (USD 17,246) and INR 18 lakhs (USD 21,557), respectively.
- Works by Bharti Kher, Jitish Kallat, and Tallur L N were among the top performing lots that exceeded their pre-sales estimates.

**Mumbai, 22 October 2024: Saffronart's Contemporary South Asian Art Sale** concluded on 22 October 2024, achieving a **total sales value of INR 7.84 crores (USD 939,189)**. The online auction featured an exceptional selection of 55 lots by leading artists from India and the Subcontinent, including Subodh Gupta, Bharti Kher, Jitish Kallat, Anju Dodiya, Tallur L N, and Tayeba Begum Lipi. The sale attracted spirited bidding worldwide through the Saffronart website and mobile app, with several lots exceeding their pre-sale estimates. The success of the auction highlights the growing significance and influence of South Asian art in the global market today.

The leading lot of the auction, *Other Thing, 2005–06, by Subodh Gupta, (lot 12)* sold for **USD 240,000 (INR 2 crores)**. This impressive installation showcases the artist's signature use of stainless-steel utensils, ubiquitous in South Asian households, to create monumental art objects. In this work, he arranges *chimtas*—or steel tongs commonly used to flip *chapatis*—elevating them into an object of grandeur, which engages the viewer in a dialogue about cultural practices, mass industrialisation, and socio-economic disparities in urban India.

Also included in the sale were works by **Bharti Kher**, an artist known for her versatility across various mediums such as paintings, textiles, sculptures, and collages. *Invisible People, 2006, (lot 13)* sold for **USD 204,000 (INR 1.70 crores)**. In this monumental quadriptych, Kher uses *bindis* to reference satellite photographs of terrain and maps of demographic clusters to draw attention to the patterns of migration and evolving notions of identity that have shaped our world. *Untitled, 2005, (lot 43)*, which is centred around a similar theme, surpassed its higher estimate and sold for **INR 31.20 lakhs (USD 37,365)**. A 2004 sculpture by Kher, titled *Imposter (lot 14)*, sold for **USD 24,000 (INR 20.04 lakhs)**. The artist uses part-human and part-primate figures dressed in markers of a civilised world to interrogate the more primeval desires of humanity and its interconnectedness with nature.

***Saving Face, 2006***, by Tallur L N ([lot 41](#)) sold for **42 lakhs (USD 50,299)**. In sculptures such as this present lot, the artist draws inspiration from many Subcontinental artistic traditions like Jain sculptures featuring the *tirthankaras*, Buddhist art of the Buddha in meditation, classical bronzes of the Chola and Vijayanagara empires and wooden animist tribal sculptures and the garish reproductions favoured by urban consumers, among others. ***Suffix (Herbaceous Perennial) - 6, 2007***, a painting by Jitish Kallat ([lot 4](#)) that foregrounds black blooms made up of petals which reveal the faces of people on closer inspection, sold for **USD 33,600 (INR 28.05 lakhs)**. ***Frozen Footnotes - 1, 2005***, ([lot 2](#)) also by Kallat, sold for **INR 20.40 lakhs (USD 24,431)**.

Other highlights from the sale included ***Twig Detail, 2005***, ([lot 21](#)), a mixed-media work by Anju Dodiya centring the figure of a woman in repose, which sold for **24 lakhs (USD 28,743)**; ***Untitled (Playground)***, a **2002** painting by Natraj Sharma ([lot 23](#)) that examines the confluence of nature, civilization, and industrialisation, which sold for **USD 21,600 (INR 18.03 lakhs)**; and ***Untitled, 2006*** by Jagannath Panda ([lot 24](#)), which sold for **INR 18 lakhs (USD 21,557)**.

The auction also set new records for Karachi-based Naiza Khan and award-winning Bangladeshi artist Tayeba Begum Lipi, both known for their multidisciplinary practices exploring themes such as gender politics and female identity. ***Tayeba Begum Lipi's Absent, 2024***, ([lot 55](#)) sold for **INR 18 lakhs (USD 21,557)**, setting a world record for the second highest price achieved by the artist at auction globally. In this sculpture, a woman's dress is recreated from stainless-steel razor blades, giving it the appearance of armour rather than a traditionally feminine garment. Through this bold choice of material, the artist addresses the violence that women face and challenges the representation of women's bodies and their societal roles. ***Untitled (Three Ways I), 2007***, a mixed media work by Naiza Khan ([lot 16](#)) sold for **INR 14.40 lakhs (USD 17,246)**, more than double its higher estimate, setting a world record for the highest price achieved by the artist at auction globally.

**Dinesh Vazirani, Saffronart CEO and Co-Founder** said, *"The enthusiastic response to our contemporary art auction from bidders in India and abroad, underscores the increasing prominence and relevance of South Asian art in the international market. Our top performing lots included compelling works by artists, such as Subodh Gupta, Bharti Kher, Jitish Kallat, Anju Dodiya, and Tayeba Begum Lipi, whose practices are deeply rooted in South Asian culture and yet are globally relevant in their perspective as well as their aesthetic. We are proud to support the careers of these artists, each of whom is on the path to becoming an integral part of the fabric of South Asian art, much like their modernist predecessors."*

An analysis of the auction can be viewed [here](#).

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## ABOUT SAFFRONART

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Founded in 2000 by Minal and Dinesh Vazirani, Saffronart is one of India's most reputed auction houses with an international presence. Its flagship gallery is in Mumbai, with offices in New Delhi, London, and New York. The company is at the forefront of selling Indian art and, together with its sister online auction and e-commerce platform StoryLTD, has over six hundred auctions to its credit. Its focus is to bring transparency to the auction process and provide easy access and information to collectors around the world. It has set several global benchmarks for online auctions and was the subject of a case study at Harvard Business School in 2005. Saffronart's services also include private sales, appraisals, and valuations for clients. It has also held exhibitions and panel discussions with industry experts, working with collectors, gallerists, and artists to develop a strong market for art and aesthetics.

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