

Saffronart to Host Two Major Auctions This March

- **Bhupen Khakhar's *Untitled (Champaner)*, 1996, leads the Spring Live Auction. Also featured are significant works by Gulam Mohammed Sheikh and Rameshwar Broota, from an important private collection**
- **A portrait by Amrita Sher-Gil, circa 1930s, leads the Spring Online Sale. The work is a rare early record of her close friendships and remarkable talent for depicting the female form**
- **The Spring Live Auction will be held in Mumbai on 13 March 2024 followed by the Online Auction on 13-14 March 2024**

Mumbai, 28 February 2024: Saffronart's Spring Auctions return this March with a compelling selection of works by leading modern and contemporary Indian artists. The **Spring Live Auction** will be held at **Saffronart's Mumbai gallery** on **13 March 2024**, and features a catalogue of **55 lots** including works by Bhupen Khakhar, Rameshwar Broota, and Gulam Mohammed Sheikh from important private collections, alongside works by S H Raza, F N Souza, and M F Husain from formative periods in their oeuvre.

The live sale is followed by our **Spring Online Auction** on **13 - 14 March 2024** with a catalogue of **74 lots** among which is a remarkable portrait by Amrita Sher-Gil and works by Ram Kumar, Krishen Khanna, Sohan Qadri, Atul Dodiya and other prominent modern and contemporary artists.

Dinesh Vazirani, Saffronart CEO and Co-Founder said, *"We are delighted to open our auction calendar with two auctions, live and online, with a strong catalogue of rare and significant works of modern Indian art. Both auctions offer first-time and experienced art collectors and connoisseurs a marvellous opportunity to acquire some of the best modern art that the Subcontinent has to offer. Bhupen Khakhar's 1996 canvas, *Untitled, Champaner*, which leads our Spring Live Auction is testament to his love of both art historic detail and kitsch and the rare sensitivity and honesty that permeates his expression. Gulam Mohammed Sheikh's 1987 canvas, *Sursagar*, exemplifies the artist's distinctive symbolism and narrative style that draws from diverse sources, and Rameshwar Broota's *The Lost Self, 1971*, is a significant work from early on in his seminal *Ape* series. Amrita Sher-Gil's *Portrait of Denyse*, which leads our Online Sale is not only a rare early record of her close friendships and influences but also a reminder of her sensitive and nuanced portrayal of women in a maturity rarely seen in an artist so young, a talent that has earned her the distinction of being the only woman among India's National Treasure Artists."*

SPRING LIVE AUCTION | 13 MARCH 2024

The **Spring Live Auction** is led by **Bhupen Khakhar's *Untitled (Champaner)*, 1996**, ([Lot 13](#),

estimate: **INR 6 – 8 crores; USD 731,710 - 975,610**), a fine example of Khakhar's mature work that exhibits stylistic choices typical of his works of this decade. The subject of the painting is veteran architect Karan Grover portrayed against the backdrop of Champaner, a UNESCO World Heritage Site near Vadodara renowned for being one of the few medieval sites in India with specimens of both Islamic and Hindu architecture. Grover was first introduced to Champaner by his professor at MSU, Baroda, R N Mehta and Grover has been instrumental in its restoration and conservation.

The sale also features two works, by Gulam Mohammed Sheikh and Rameshwar Broota, from the collection of Simran & Vir Kotak, founders of The Eight Foundation, an organisation working to foster collaboration and dialogue among artists, thinkers, and stakeholders in the art world. Layered with figurative, architectural, and natural elements, **Gulam Mohammed Sheikh's *Sursagar, 1987*** ([Lot 37](#), estimate: **INR 6 – 8 crores; USD 731,710 - 975,610**) is a brilliant example of the artist's distinctive narrative style which draws from diverse pictorial and cultural traditions. ***The Lost Self, 1971*** by **Rameshwar Broota** ([Lot 36](#), estimate: **INR 1.5 – 2 crores; USD 182,930 – 243,905**) belongs to the artist's renowned *Ape* series of the 1970s in which he uses apes and hybrid ape–man figures in wryly comical settings as a satirical commentary on bureaucratic corruption.

Other significant lots include ***Tearing Apart, 1970*** ([Lot 29](#), estimate: **INR 4 – 6 crores; USD 487,805 - 731,710**), an enigmatic painting of a pair of galloping horses by **M F Husain**; two 1960s works by **S H Raza**, one titled ***Rajasthan, 1961*** ([Lot 46](#), estimate: **USD 300,000 - 500,000; INR 2.46 – 4.10 crores**), which is among the earliest in a series of works spanning decades inspired by the landscape of Rajasthan, and the other, ***Forêt Noir, 1961*** ([Lot 40](#), estimate: **INR 1.5 – 2 crores; USD 182,930 - 243,905**) that marks the evolution of the artist's understanding of the emotive and structural capabilities of colour at a crucial period in his practice; and **Tyeb Mehta's *Trussed Bull, 1955*** ([Lot 20](#), estimate: **INR 30 – 40 lakhs; USD 36,590 - 48,785**) which is significant for being one of Mehta's earliest drawing of the bull, a symbol that remained central to his oeuvre throughout his career.

The sale also includes two works by F N Souza that illustrate the artist's exquisite draughtsmanship. ***Front-Back Nude, 1950*** ([Lot 50](#), estimate: **USD 750,000 - 950,000; INR 6.15 – 7.79 crores**), painted a year after he left India for Post-War London, exhibits a strong influence of classical Indian art that would go on to define Souza's female nudes, which were a cornerstone of his career. ***Toreador, 1966*** ([Lot 51](#), estimate: **USD 90,000 - 120,000; INR 73.8 – 98.4 lakhs**), an oil on canvas work exemplifies the artist's belief in the power of the line as the foundational pictorial element.

The Live Auction will take place at the Saffronart gallery in Mumbai and is preceded by viewings in Mumbai. All lots can be viewed [online](#) at saffronart.com

SPRING ONLINE AUCTION | 13-14 MARCH 2024

The live sale will be followed by the **Spring Online Auction** on **13-14 March 2024**, with a catalogue of 74 works by modern and contemporary artists. The leading lot is **Amrita Sher-Gil's *Portrait of Denyse, circa 1930s*** ([Lot 74](#), estimate: USD 1.5 – 2.5 million; INR 12.3 – 20.5 crores), a rare and eminent example of the sensitivity with which she portrayed women and an exceptional painting from a rich formative period in her brief but immensely impactful career when she was exploring her artistic language.

Other highlights from the Online sale include **Jamini Roy's *Gandhi*** ([Lot 71](#), estimate: USD 20,000 - 30,000; INR 16.4 – 24.6 lakhs), **Ram Kumar's abstract landscape *Untitled, 2003*** ([Lot 91](#), estimate: INR 45 – 65 lakhs; USD 54,880 - 79,270), ***The Killing of Jatayu, 2004*** by Krishen Khanna ([Lot 100](#), estimate: INR 30 – 40 lakhs; USD 36,590 - 48,785) and **S H Raza's *Untitled, 1959*** ([Lot 89](#), estimate: INR 40 – 50 lakhs; USD 48,785 - 60,980).

Among the contemporary works in the sale are ***The Titanic Days, 2006 - 2010*** ([Lot 124](#), estimate: INR 25 – 35 lakhs; USD 30,490 - 42,685), a monumental work by **Atul Dodiya**; **Thota Vaikuntam's portraits of Telangana men and women, *Untitled, 2015*** ([Lot 115](#), estimate: INR 15 – 20 lakhs; USD 18,295 - 24,395) and ***Untitled***, an oil on masonite work by **Anjolie Ela Menon** ([Lot 117](#), estimate: INR 10 – 15 lakhs; USD 12,200 - 18,295).

The auction also includes sculptures and installations such as ***Tree to Tree, 2019*** by **Gulam Mohammed Sheikh** ([Lot 103](#), estimate: INR 15 – 20 lakhs; USD 18,295 - 24,395); ***Untitled***, a bronze statue of a *bandwallah* by **Krishen Khanna** ([Lot 104](#), estimate: INR 15 – 18 lakhs; USD 18,295 - 21,955); **Himmat Shah's *Untitled*** ([Lot 105](#), estimate: INR 8 – 10 lakhs; USD 9,760 - 12,200); and **Rana Begum's colourful installation *No. 210, 2010*** ([Lot 130](#), estimate: USD 8,000 - 12,000; INR 6.56 – 9.84 lakhs).

The Online Auction will take place at saffronart.com and is preceded by viewings in Mumbai. All lots can be viewed [online](#) at saffronart.com.

AUCTION DATES

Spring Live Auction | 13 March 2024, Mumbai, 7.30pm
Spring Online Auction | 13-14 March 2024 on saffronart.com

VIEWINGS

MUMBAI

14 February – 14 March 2024
11 am – 7 pm, Monday to Saturday
(Sundays, by appointment)

VENUE

Saffronart, Industry Manor, Ground Floor
Appasaheb Marathe Marg
Prabhadevi, Mumbai 400025

Website: www.saffronart.com | Facebook: [@saffronart](#) | Instagram: [@saffronartindia](#)

Press Contact: [Rena Vora](mailto:Rena.Vora@saffronart.com) | pr@saffronart.com

To make an appointment, please contact +91 22 6855 4100 or email us at auction@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.

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

Press Contact

Rena Vora | pr@saffronart.com