

## **Jagdish Swaminathan, Manjit Bawa and Rare Personal Effects from F N Souza's Studio Lead Saffronart's Summer Online Auction 2026**

*The impressive catalogue features 130 lots by prominent modern and contemporary South Asian artists.*

**Mumbai, June 2026:** Following a landmark Spring season that established a new global auction record for a work of modern Indian painting with Raja Ravi Varma's *Yashoda and Krishna*, Saffronart returns with its *Summer Online Auction*, to be held on 15–16 June 2026.

Drawn from Indian and international private collections, the catalogue features 130 works by leading modern and contemporary artists, offering collectors the opportunity to engage with a diverse range of artistic practices.

Among the highlights of the catalogue is Jagdish Swaminathan's celebrated *Bird, Mountain, Tree* series, one of the artist's most accomplished and philosophically layered bodies of work. Also featured is a striking composition by Manjit Bawa, reflecting his distinctive visual language shaped by fluid figuration and luminous colours, alongside a major work from Krishen Khanna's iconic *Bandwalla* series, through which the artist chronicles the shifting social fabric of urban India with empathy.

The sale also includes a group of works from a distinguished private collection in the United States, featuring important paintings by N S Bendre, M F Husain, F N Souza, and Ganesh Pyne.

A highlight of the catalogue is a special section devoted to works and archival material from F N Souza's Studio. Bringing together important works on paper and personal studio objects—including the artist's easel, palettes, painting smock, projector, and reference materials—the collection offers a rare and intimate insight into Souza's creative world.

### **Highlight lots:**

#### **Manjit Bawa, *Untitled (Radha)*, Circa 1990s (lot [13](#), estimate: INR 5 - 7 crores, USD 531,915 - 744,685)**

Set against a vivid red backdrop, the composition reflects Bawa's unmistakable visual language shaped by fluid line, flattened colour fields, and lyrical figuration. Influenced by Indian miniature traditions and devotional imagery, the work demonstrates the quiet theatricality and chromatic intensity central to his practice.

#### **Krishen Khanna, *Bandwallas at a Wedding*, 1995 (lot [103](#), estimate: USD 250,000 - 350,000, INR 2.35 - 3.29 crores)**

Part of Khanna's iconic *Bandwalla* series, the work reflects his engagement with the lives of marginalised individuals and his deeply humanistic approach. Thick impasto and energetic brushwork lend the composition both movement and psychological depth.

#### **Jagdish Swaminathan, *Untitled (Bird, Tree and Mountain)*, 1976 (lot [10](#), estimate: INR 1.80 - 2.20 crores, USD 191,490 - 234,045)**

From Swaminathan's celebrated *Bird, Mountain, Tree* series, this work exemplifies the artist's mature visual language shaped by geometric simplification, luminous colour fields, and metaphysical symbolism.

### **Property from a Distinguished Private Collection, USA**

- **M F Husain, *Two Women*, Circa 1950s (lot [33](#), estimate: USD 300,000 - 500,000, INR 2.82 - 4.70 crores)**

An early and important work, the painting reflects Husain's evolving engagement with figuration and the emotional possibilities of the human form.

- **N S Bendre, *The Big Haul*, 1971 (lot [32](#), estimate: USD 200,000 - 300,000, INR 1.88 - 2.82 crores)**

A masterful study of colour and form, the work reflects Bendre's engagement with post-Impressionism and cubist distortion following his travels through Europe in the late 1940s.

- **F N Souza, *St. Sebastian*, 1957 (lot [35](#), estimate: USD 200,000 - 300,000, INR 1.88 - 2.82 crores)**

Painted in 1957, the work is emblematic of Souza's psychologically charged heads and his enduring engagement with religious iconography, martyrdom, and the contradictions of institutional faith.

- **Ganesh Pyne, *The Robot*, 2002 (lot [36](#), estimate: USD 150,000 - 200,000, INR 1.41 - 1.88 crores)**

Characteristic of Pyne's allegorical and deep atmospheric practice, the painting inhabits the liminal space between memory, mythology, and psychological unease.

**Acquired from F N Souza's Studio | Distinguished Private Collection**

- F N Souza, *Untitled*, 1962 (lot [53](#), estimate: USD 60,000 - 80,000, INR 56.40 - 75.20 lakhs)
- F N Souza's Studio, *Artist's Easel and Two Drawing Boards* (lot [69](#), estimate: USD 400 - 600, INR 37,600 - 56,400)
- F N Souza's Studio, *Three Artist's Palettes and his Painting Smock* (lot [70](#), estimate: USD 400 - 600, INR 37,600 - 56,400)
- F N Souza's Studio, *Artist's Projector* (lot [71](#), estimate: USD 400 - 600, INR 37,600 - 56,400)
- F N Souza's Studio, *Assorted Vintage Reference Materials* (lot [78](#), estimate: USD 150 - 250, INR 14,100 - 23,500).

**Dinesh Vazirani, CEO and Co-Founder, Saffronart, said,** “*Our Summer Online Auction brings together works of exceptional provenance and art historical significance, representing some of the best of Indian art. Alongside a remarkable painting of Krishna's divine consort Radha, by Manjit Bawa and a significant group of works from a distinguished private collection in the United States, we are particularly pleased to present a selection of works and personal effects from the private studio of F N Souza, offering collectors a rare glimpse into the life and creative mind of one of India's most influential modernists.*”

All lots can be viewed [here](#). Full information available upon request.

### SUMMER ONLINE AUCTION DATES

Saffronart Summer Online Auction | 15-16 June 2026

at [saffronart.com](http://saffronart.com)

For further enquiries and appointments, contact:

[auction@saffronart.com](mailto:auction@saffronart.com) | +91 22 68554100

### VIEWINGS

#### MUMBAI

26 May - 16 June 2026

11 am - 7pm (Monday to Saturday)

Sunday (by appointment only)

Saffronart, Ground Floor, Industry Manor

Appasaheb Marathe Marg, Prabhadevi, Mumbai 400025

#### LONDON

3 June - 16 June 2026

11 am - 6pm (Monday to Friday)

11 am – 3pm (Saturday)

Sunday (by appointment only)

Saffronart, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor,

73 New Bond Street, W1S 1RS

### ABOUT SAFFRONART

Founded in 2000 by Minal and Dinesh Vazirani, Saffronart is one of India's most reputed auction houses with a strong international presence. Its flagship gallery is in Mumbai, with offices in New Delhi, London, and New York. A leader in the sale of Indian art, Saffronart—together with its sister e-commerce platform StoryLTD—has conducted over 700 auctions. The company is committed to transparency and to making the auction process accessible to collectors worldwide. It has set several global benchmarks for online auctions and was featured in a 2005 Harvard Business School case study. Saffronart also offers private sales, appraisals, and valuations, and hosts exhibitions and panel discussions with industry experts, working closely with collectors, gallerists, and artists to strengthen the market for Indian art and aesthetics.

**Website:** [www.saffronart.com](http://www.saffronart.com) | **Facebook:** @saffronart | **Instagram:** @saffronartindia

**Press Contact:** [namrata@tandemcommunication.net](mailto:namrata@tandemcommunication.net), [lakshita.patel@tandemcommunication.net](mailto:lakshita.patel@tandemcommunication.net)