

Rare artworks covering India's artistic history lead Saffronart's 25th anniversary celebrations

- Saffronart's 25th Anniversary Live Auction will take place on 2 April 2025 in Mumbai, followed by an online auction from 2 - 3 April 2025 in celebration of the first ever auction held in April 2000.
- The catalogues feature many rare lots spanning colonial to pre-modern to leading contemporary Indian artists. This includes Tyeb Mehta, Amrita Sher-Gil, Raja Ravi Varma, F N Souza, Krishen Khanna, Bhupen Khakhar, Subodh Gupta, Bharti Kher, Atul Dodiya, and more.
- The Mumbai preview will be held on 7 March 2025, and will open with a panel discussion commemorating Tyeb Mehta's centenary. The panel will include Tyeb Mehta's family members Himani Mehta Dehlvi, Yusuf Mehta, with artist Atul Dodiya, and moderated by Mortimer Chatterjee.

Mumbai, 7 March 2025: Founded in 2000, Saffronart has played a pivotal role in shaping the Indian art market, nationally and internationally. Started with a clear vision to create a platform for collecting art that offered transparency, Saffronart was the first Indian auction house to pioneer online auctions and embrace cutting-edge technology, expanding accessibility across geographies and building a democratic platform that empowers buyers to make informed decisions. The auction house completes 25 years this year and the commemorations will be kickstarted with a grand live and online auction from 2 - 3 April 2025. A preview in Mumbai preceding the auction will be opened by a panel discussion honouring Tyeb Mehta's birth centenary in collaboration with the Tyeb Mehta Foundation and Saffronart Foundation. Future highlights of the year-long collaboration will be announced during the talk.

As part of the 25th Anniversary Live Sale, we are pleased to offer two **Tyeb Mehta** works, from the Mehta family collection, that bookend his career: one of his first ever bull painting, ***Trussed Bull, 1956*** ([lot 13](#), estimate: INR 5 – 7 crores, USD 581,400 – 813,955) which began his career-defining series, and one of his last ever works dated 2006 ([lot 15](#), estimate: INR 5 – 7 crores, USD 581,400 – 813,955), both of which have never been sold before.

An **Amrita Sher-Gil** still life, ***Still Life with Green Bottles and Apples, 1932*** ([lot 36](#), estimate: INR 12–15 crores, USD 1.39–1.74 million), is up for auction, providing an incredibly rare opportunity to own a work where most of the series, which is itself limited, are part of the permanent collection of the NGMA, New Delhi.

Supper at Emmaus, 1987 ([lot 55](#), estimate: USD 600,000 – 800,000, INR 5.16 – 6.88 crores), the largest of **F N Souza's** lots featured in this auction, is his own powerful depiction of Caravaggio's instrumental 17th century painting of the same name, providing a layered approach to Biblical portrayal and artistic legacy.

Other important highlights from the sale include **Lake at Oodeypore, India, circa 1893** by Edwin Lord Weeks ([lot 41](#), estimate: INR 12 – 15 crores, USD 1.39 – 1.74 million), one of the most prominent 19th century Orientalist painters who has recently seen an artist record broken with Saffronart; **No. 2: My Wife, 1990** by Bhupen Khakhar ([lot 72](#), estimate: USD 120,000 - 180,000, INR 1.03 – 1.54 crores); and **Untitled, 1995** by Manjit Bawa ([lot 67](#), estimate: USD 100,000 - 150,000, INR 86 lakhs – 1.29 crores); among others.

The Online Auction includes monumental works by leading modernists and contemporary artists alike; S H Raza, Subodh Gupta, Bharti Kher, Atul Dodiya, Anju Dodiya, and many more. Leading the sale is **Bindu Visarg, 2010** by S H Raza ([lot 114](#), estimate: INR 2 – 3 crores, USD 235,295 - 352,945), where the *bindu*, his most iconic symbol, forms the nucleus of the canvas, radiating immense concentrated energy.

A sculptural highlight from the sale is **Black Skin White Mask, 2011** by Subodh Gupta ([lot 149](#), estimate: USD 180,000 - 220,000, INR 1.53 – 1.87 crores), created using everyday steel utensils, including pots, pans, tumblers, and others, to highlight the uniqueness and complexities of India's socio-economic development. **Of Bloodlines and Bastards, 2007** by Bharti Kher ([lot 136](#), estimate: USD 150,000 - 200,000, INR 1.27 – 1.70 crores), clusters *bindis* in a similar manner to topographical satellite views and data maps detailing area demographics.

Also included in the sale is **Cracks in Mondrian – Awadh, 2004-05** by Atul Dodiya ([lot 147](#), estimate: USD 40,000 - 60,000, INR 34 – 51 lakhs). The lot is part of a series of works the artist created for the 2005 exhibition, *Cracks in Mondrian*. Other highlights include **Nursery Tales, 2008** by Nalini Malini ([lot 132](#), estimate: INR 40 – 60 lakhs, USD 47,060 - 70,590); and **Dreamers, 2007** by Anju Dodiya ([lot 150](#), estimate: USD 20,000 - 30,000, INR 17 – 25.50 lakhs).

Dinesh Vazirani, Saffronart CEO and Co-Founder said, *“For the 25th Anniversary Sale, we have curated a selection of prominent works traversing India’s art history; from pre-Modernism through to today’s most formidable contemporaries. We are honouring Tyeb Mehta’s birth centenary with two choice lots including his Trussed Bull, 1956, one of the first in his iconic series, and one of his very last pieces dated 2006. These works are provided by the Tyeb Mehta family and bookend his immensely impactful career. Additionally, we have one of Amrita Sher-Gil’s very few still lifes, Still Life with Green Bottles and Apples, 1932. Most of these rare pieces by Sher-Gil are housed in the NGMA’s permanent collection, meaning private ownership of this work is a scarce opportunity. This curation is a well-rounded representation taking us from Raja Ravi Varma, the beginning of Indian modernism, through Edwin Lord Weeks’ Orientalist depictions, to the best of contemporary art including Subodh Gupta, Bharti Kher and Atul Dodiya, just to name a few. It is a celebration of India’s artists, as well as the landscape’s continually blossoming artistic trajectory, honouring what Saffronart is founded upon.”*

Full artwork information available upon request.

EVENT INFORMATION

MUMBAI PREVIEW

**25th Anniversary Auction | 7 March 2025 at Saffronart Gallery,
Industry Manor, Prabhadevi, Mumbai, Maharashtra 400025**

Rare works by Tyeb Mehta from his family collection will be on display as part of the preview along with works by Amrita Sher-Gil, Bharti Kher, F N Souza and Atul Dodiya, among many others for the upcoming 25th anniversary auction.

Schedule of events:

6pm - 7pm - The preview will be preceded by a panel discussion on **Tyeb Mehta** with Himani Mehta Dehvi, Yusuf Mehta, and Atul Dodiya, moderated by Mortimer Chatterjee.

7pm onwards - Cocktails and viewing.

AUCTION DATES

25th Anniversary Live Auction | 2 April 2025, Mumbai
25th Anniversary Online Auction | 2 - 3 April 2025 on saffronart.com

VIEWINGS

MUMBAI

8 March – 1 April 2025
11 am – 7 pm, Monday to Saturday
(Sundays by appointment)

VENUE

Saffronart, 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

ABOUT SAFFRONART

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 and galleries 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 seven 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

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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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