

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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CHRISTIE'S

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## CONTEMPORARY MASTERS ASTOUND IN CHRISTIE'S SPRING SALE OF SOUTH ASIAN MODERN + CONTEMPORARY ART



Subodh Gupta, *Untitled*, oil on canvas, Painted in 2007  
Estimate: \$180,000-250,000

### South Asian Modern + Contemporary Art

21 March 2012

**New York** - Christie's is delighted to announce the spring auction of ***South Asian Modern + Contemporary Art*** taking place on 21 March. Juxtaposing modernism with a strong contemporary perspective, the sale presents an exhilarating array of works by celebrated modern masters; Tyeb Mehta, Akbar Padamsee, Syed Haider Raza, Francis Newton Souza and Maqbool Fida Husain alongside the biggest names in contemporary art; Subodh Gupta, Rashid Rana, Atul Dodiya, Anju Dodiya, Jitish Kallat, Nalini Malani, Rina Banerjee, Raqib Shaw and Zarina. The interest in South Asian contemporary art is strongly present on the international museum front and much of the contemporary works on offer have been widely exhibited and internationally acclaimed. The auction will also feature property from two esteemed collections, *The Keehn Family Collection* and *Garden Silk Mills Ltd: The Chairman's Collection*.

The Keehn Family Collection presented here follows and concludes the selection we had the privilege of presenting in September 2011. This selection includes the powerful, bold and expressionistic *Keehn Family Portrait* (pictured right, estimate: \$100,000 – 150,000) painted by Maqbool Fida Husain. Husain captures a poignant moment from 1959 during the time when the Keehn family lived in India.

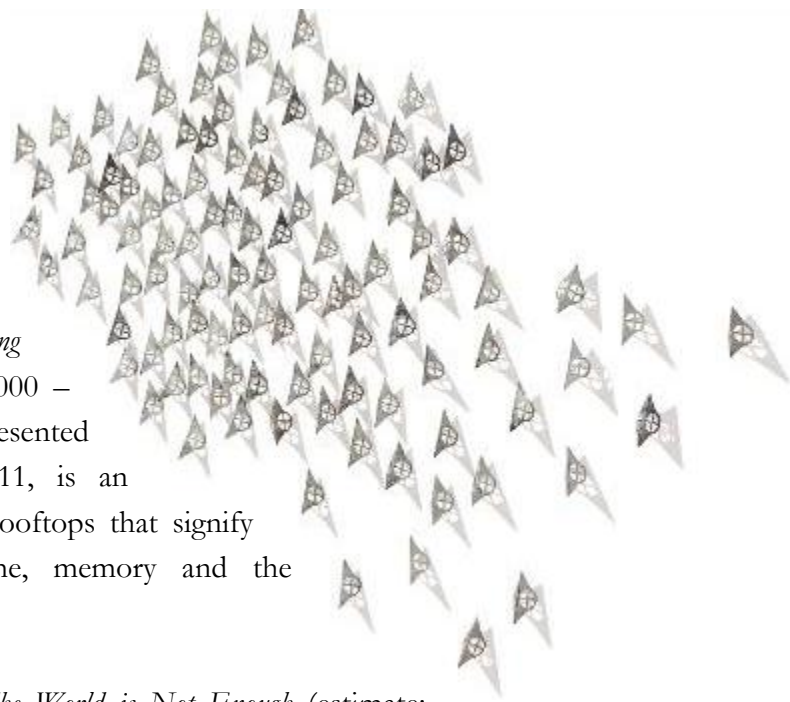


Mr. Praful Shah, Chairman of Garden Silk Mills is a true visionary bridging tradition and modernity, with deep insight and love for the arts of India. Highlighting Garden Silk Mills Ltd: The Chairman's Collection is Tyeb Mehta's *Untitled (Figures with Bull Head)* (pictured left, estimate: \$1,500,000 – 2,000,000). Belonging to the suite of works created at Santiniketan in 1984, this painting is situated formally and philosophically at a major turning point in Mehta's life and illustrates a maturity of style.

Among the sale highlights is Akbar Padamsee's *Cityscape*, (pictured below, Estimate on Request) executed in 1959 during the artist's Gray Period for his first solo exhibition in Bombay after spending nearly ten years in Paris. The exhibition was a breakthrough event in the Indian art scene. Inspired by the Bombay landscape, this painting is among the finest of Padamsee's oeuvre. Painted at night in the badminton court outside Padamsee's home in Juhu, *Cityscape* is a meditation on the color gray, on line, form and movement. It captures the change of light throughout the night – from the cooler tones of the moon light to the warmer tones of the breaking day.



Kicking off the contemporary selection is an untitled work by Subodh Gupta (*pictured page 1*, estimate: \$180,000 – 250,000) from his iconic series on stainless steel utensils. *Crawling House* by Zarina, (*pictured right*, estimate: \$20,000 – 30,000) one of the group of artists who represented India at the 54th Venice Biennale in 2011, is an installation featuring hundreds of miniature rooftops that signify her preoccupation with the idea of home, memory and the impermanence of both.



Also featured in the sale is Rashid Rana's *The World is Not Enough* (estimate: \$40,000 – 60,000). An exquisite example of Rana's use of pixilated images, this work is composed of photographs taken mostly from a landfill outside of Lahore. Reduced to miniature pixels, the details that form the larger image are in fact thousands of images of trash digitally stitched together. This work is an examination of urban decay and serves as a larger comment on superficiality, consumerism and disposable culture.

Capturing the spirit of the time, the contemporary artists of the region, like the modernists before them, carry the essence of South Asia that never ceases to provide creative inspiration. Today, the young South Asian artist responds to a new global artistic vision making this an exciting time to endorse the creative forces of South Asia.

#### ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



**Syed Haider Raza**

*Nuage Blanc*

oil on canvas

35<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> x 45<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> in. (90.5 x 114.9 cm.)

Painted in 1956

Estimate: \$150,000-250,000



**N. S. Harsha**

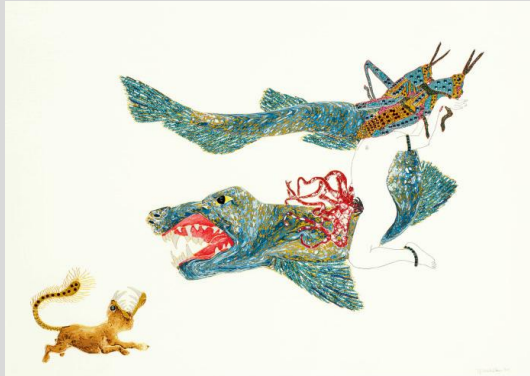
*Look Into My Eyes*

acrylic and digital print on canvas; diptych

116<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> x 116 in. (295.9 x 294.6 cm.) each

Executed in 2004

Estimate: \$30,000-50,000



**Raqib Shaw**

*Untitled*

mixed media on paper  
16½ x 23¼ in. (41.9 x 59.1 cm.)  
Executed in 2004  
Estimate: \$20,000-30,000



**Nalini Malani**

*Mother India (courage) 1 (Red Babies)*

acrylic and enamel reverse painting on acrylic sheet  
47¼ x 35¼ in. (120 x 89.5 cm.)  
Executed in 2005  
Estimate: \$30,000-50,000

**Auction: South Asian Modern + Contemporary Art**

**21 March 2012**

**Viewing: Christie's Rockefeller Galleries**

**16-20 March 2012**

#### **About Christie's**

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in 2011 that totaled £3.6 billion/\$5.7 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie's has since conducted the greatest and most celebrated auctions through the centuries providing a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 450 auctions annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$100 million. Christie's also has a long and successful history conducting private sales for its clients in all categories, with emphasis on Post-War and Contemporary, Impressionist and Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery. Private sales totaled £502 million / \$808.6m in 2011, an increase of 44% on the previous year.

Christie's has a global presence with 53 offices in 32 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, and Hong Kong. More recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in growth markets such as Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.

*\*Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and do not reflect costs, financing fees or application of buyer's or seller's credits.*

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*Images available on request*

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