

CHRISTIE'S

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CHRISTIE'S TO EXHIBIT HIGHLIGHTS OF NEW YORK ASIAN ART WEEK AT THE TAJ MAHAL HOTEL IN NEW DELHI

20-21 AUGUST 2014

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

FEATURING WORKS FROM THE SALES OF
SOUTH ASIAN MODERN + CONTEMPORARY ART AND
A PIONEERING VISION: WORKS FROM THE COLLECTION OF SHUMITA AND ARANI BOSE

New Delhi – Following its highly successful first auction in India in December 2013, Christie's is pleased to announce that it will host a special preview of works from New York's upcoming sales of South Asian Modern + Contemporary Art on August 20-21 at the Taj Mahal Hotel in New Delhi (exact timings to be confirmed on www.christies.com). The public exhibition will comprise fourteen masterworks from the sale, which will include highlights from the greatly anticipated auction of works from the Collection of Shumita and Arani Bose.

A Pioneering Vision: Works from the Collection of Shumita and Arani Bose will be offered on 17 September in New York. In the two decades since co-founding the New York based Bose Pacia, the first gallery in the West specialising exclusively in contemporary South Asian art, Shumita and Arani Bose have nurtured, supported and promoted India's most important avant garde artists. Carefully curated by these internationally renowned tastemakers, the Collection of Shumita and Arani Bose is one of the most comprehensive and distinguished in the West. This iconic and eclectic selection will offer 26 illustrious masterpieces by modern masters such as Vasudeo S. Gaitonde, Francis Newton Souza and Bhupen Khakhar, alongside international contemporary superstars.

Among the highlights of the sale and the New Delhi exhibition is Vasudeo S. Gaitonde's *Untitled*, painted in 1971. Gaitonde is recognised as having been an innovator and stands apart from his Indian contemporaries for his espousal of a purely abstract aesthetic in art. The work to be offered in September showcases Gaitonde as a painter, philosopher and alchemist at the zenith of his career. His fully matured and resolved style creates a harmonious symphony of the abstract, minimalist and conceptual aesthetic. The auction record for a work by Gaitonde was set last year during the inaugural Christie's sale in Mumbai when his *Untitled* work sold for INR 23,70,25,000 (\$3,792,400).

This sale will also include Francis Newton Souza's monumental masterpiece *The Butcher*, painted in 1962 whilst living in London, where his talent and reputation were firmly cemented. Also showing in New Delhi, *The Butcher* represents the apex of the raw, expressionist style that characterised Souza's works in this series and is influenced by the works of El Greco and Goya as well as the Romanesque paintings and Catalonian frescos he saw on an earlier visit to Spain. Souza's painting focuses on the agent of butchery casting him as a symbol of the tragic destiny of man, forever damned to suffer in torment. This epic painting on black satin is one of the largest to come to auction, a seminal work that captures the shocking and powerful grotesque for which Souza is celebrated.

Following the auction of *A Pioneering Vision* is the **South Asian Modern + Contemporary Art** sale, which will feature 70 lots, offering iconic works by leading modernist masters Manjit Bawa, Syed Haider Raza, and Jagdish Swaminathan. The sale will be led by Manjit Bawa's monumental masterpiece *Untitled (Durga)*. Bawa distilled figuration to its most elemental components, giving primacy to line by evoking elements of Kalighat painting while simultaneously exploring the saturated and gem-toned hues of miniature painting. Bawa was influenced by ancient mythology and Hindu literature and in the present work he depicts Durga, the female supreme deity, mounted on the back of her lion. Bawa's use of space and color creates a mesmerising composition conjuring a window into a world of imagination, myth, mysticism and magic. This will be an additional highlight of the New Delhi exhibition.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SALE OF

A Pioneering Vision: Works from the Collection of Shumita and Arani Bose

TO BE EXHIBITED IN NEW DELHI

Sale Date: 17 September 2014, New York



FRANCIS NEWTON SOUZA
The Butcher
Painted in 1962
Estimate: \$1.5-2 million



VASUDEO S. GAITONDE
Untitled
Painted in 1971
Estimate: \$750,000-900,000



BHUPEN KHAKHAR
At New Jersey
Painted in 1986
Estimate: \$80,000-120,000

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SALE OF

South Asian Modern + Contemporary Art

TO BE EXHIBITED IN NEW DELHI

Sale Date: 17 September 2014, New York



MANJIT BAWA
Untitled (Durga)
oil on canvas
Estimate: 380,000 - 450,000



JAGDISH SWAMINATHAN
*Untitled (Bird, Tree and
Mountain Series)*
oil on canvas
Painted in 1983
Estimate: \$100,000-150,000



SYED HAIDER RAZA
Blue
acrylic on canvas
Painted in 1972
Estimate: \$120,000-180,000

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About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in the first half of 2014 that totaled £2.69 / \$4.47 billion, making it the highest half year total in Christie's history. 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 around 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 & Contemporary, Impressionist & Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery. Private sales in the first half of 2014 totalled £498.9 million (\$828.2 million).

Christie's has a global presence with 53 offices in 32 countries and 12 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Mumbai. 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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