

CHRISTIE'S

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LEADING AND EMERGING ARTISTS AT CHRISTIE'S SALE OF *SOUTH ASIAN MODERN + CONTEMPORARY ART IN MARCH*



Lot 20 - Syed Haider Raza
Village en Fête
oil on canvas

Estimate: \$600,000-800,000

New York - Christie's sale of *South Asian Modern + Contemporary Art*, taking place on 20 March, will present a selection of exceptional works and iconic masterpieces by leading artists, such as Vasudeo S. Gaitonde, Maqbool Fida Husain, Tyeb Mehta, Jagdish Swaminathan and Syed Haider Raza, alongside contemporaries Subodh Gupta, Rina Banerjee, Atul Dodiya, Bharti Kher, Ravinder Reddy and the rising star from Bangladesh, Tayeba Begum Lipi. The sale will include Pakistani modernist Zahoor ul Akhlaq alongside Abdur Rahman Chughtai, and a group of contemporary artists from the region including, Rashid Rana, Imran Qureshi and Adeela Suleman. In addition, a collection of early works by Francis Newton Souza will highlight 50 years of Goa's independence.

Having traveled to America and spent the year 1962-63 in Berkeley, Syed Haider Raza was not left untouched by the California sun and painted the monumental *Village en Fête* (pictured above; estimate: \$600,000-800,000) upon his return to the South of France. It is a seminal painting and the earliest of his large-scaled works that includes the top three world auction records: *Saurashtra*, 1983; *La Terre*, 1973 and *La Terre*, 1985. It expresses the joy of a village festival,

the structures of houses and streets providing the pretext for an intricately structured canvas erupting in a burst of colors, not least a celebration of the vibrant hues of his homeland. The vibrant colors dance across the canvas and the painting sings; drums beat in the distance, the gleeful chatter of village women intermingle with the rustling of trees. Brilliantly executed, it marks a new high point in his *oeuvre* of an extraordinary order and scale.

Throughout his career, Maqbool Fida Husain painted several works that combined two of his favorite themes: music and the female form. This large untitled canvas of a divine female musician (*pictured right*; estimate: \$450,000 – 600,000) from the early 1970s demonstrates Husain's extraordinary command of color and line in a large space,



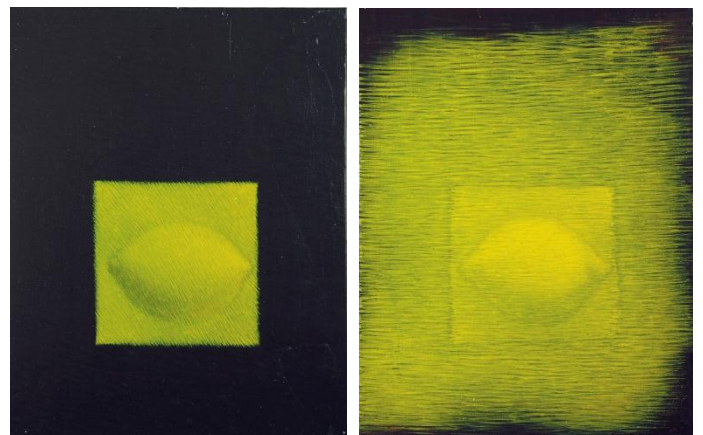
executed with enormous vitality, something that is naturally present from the very start of his career. Husain pays homage to classical Indian sculpture by representing the woman in the traditional *tribhanga* (three bends) pose.



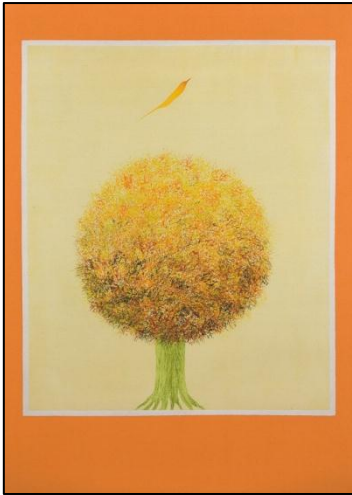
Consisting of forty-five chrome-plated aluminum casts of bamboo sticks, Subodh Gupta's *Magic Wands* (*pictured left*; estimate: \$150,000-200,000) is an excellent example of Gupta's knack for identifying common objects that reveal the flaws of oversimplifying the differences between the urban and rural, rich and poor, tradition and modernity, East and West. Serving as a social commentary on the urbanization of India over the last two decades, the combination of message and medium in *Magic Wands* is both playful and critical.

Reflective of Pakistan's artistic tradition, celebrated minimalist artist Zahoor ul Akhlaq (*pictured right*; estimate: \$6,000 – 8,000) bridges the gap between modern and contemporary art of the region. During his tenure at the National College of Arts (NCA), Lahore, Akhlaq served as teacher and mentor to several generations of artists, including Rashid Rana, several of whose works will also be included in the sale. Recipient of the 2013 Deutsche Bank Artist of the Year award, Imran Qureshi, also a student and teacher at the NCA, challenges ideas about what can be considered contemporary art with his work, *Moderate Enlightenment* (estimate: \$10,000 – 15,000).

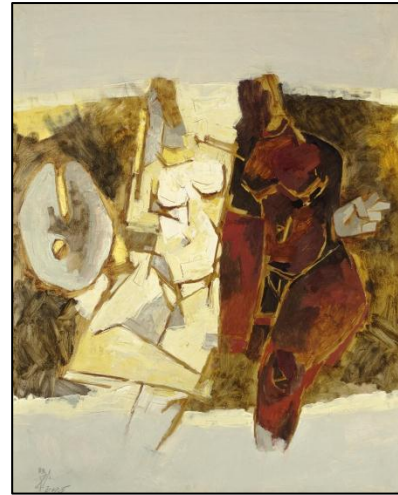
South Asian art is the focus of various major international museums with exhibitions of works by Zarina currently on view at the Guggenheim Museum, New York through April. Rashid Rana's mid-career retrospective recently opened at the Mohatta Palace, Karachi in February and Atul Dodiya's first solo exhibition in the United States opened at the Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati this month. Rina Banerjee, Subodh Gupta, Bharti Kher, Ravinder Reddy and Vivan Sundaram recently participated in the *India: Art Now* exhibition at the Arken Museum, Copenhagen.



ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



Lot 52 - Jagdish Swaminathan
Untitled (Bird and Tree)
oil on canvas
Estimate: \$120,000 – 180,000



Lot 58 - Maqbool Fida Husain
Kobra
oil on canvas
Estimate: \$350,000 – 500,000



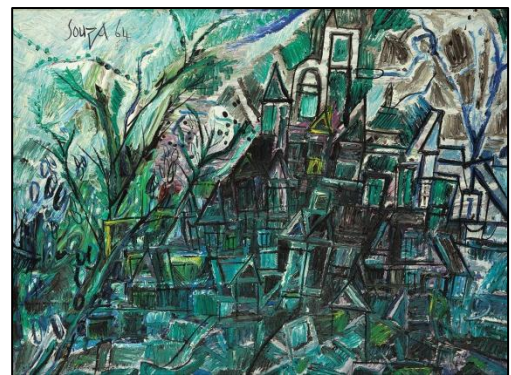
Lot 84 - Rina Banerjee
In what seemed at first a monster's colonial dream...
mixed media on panel
Estimate: \$20,000 – 30,000



Lot 31 - Vasudeo S. Gaitonde
Untitled
oil on canvas
Estimate: \$350,000 – 500,000



Lot 3 - Tayeba Begum Lipi
My Daughter's Cot II
Stainless steel razorblades
Estimate: \$18,000-25,000



Lot 14 - Francis Newton Souza
Houses on a Green Hill
oil on canvas
Estimate: \$150,000 – 200,000

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**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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