

CHRISTIE'S

MEDIA ALERT | LONDON
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DIVINE OBJECTS

STAR IN THE SOUTH ASIAN MODERN + CONTEMPORARY ART
AND ARTS OF INDIA AUCTIONS IN LONDON

12 JUNE

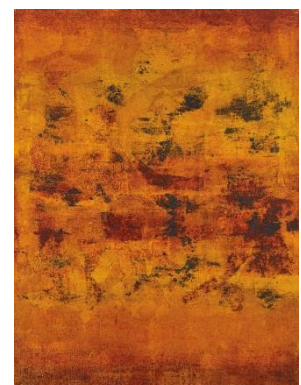


London – On 12 June, Christie's will host the 24th annual sale of [South Asian Modern + Contemporary Art](#) alongside the [Arts of India](#) auction as part of Indian Art London. These sales will offer collectors an exciting opportunity to buy classical Indian art from early Gandharan sculpture to Company School painting, all the way through to iconic modern paintings by leading artists Vasudeo S. Gaitonde, Tyeb Mehta, and a never before seen sculpture by Ravinder Reddy. The South Asian Modern + Contemporary sale features *Untitled (Goddess)*, illustrated above, a formative example of the artists' now iconic representations of deified Indian women ([Lot 46](#), estimate: £25,000 – 35,000). Bringing together the ancient and the contemporary, and linking temple, kitsch and Pop art, Reddy's larger than life sculptures command attention from the viewer and challenge traditional notions of beauty, femininity, and domesticity.

SOUTH ASIAN MODERN + CONTEMPORARY ART



The South Asian Modern + Contemporary Art sale includes 70 lots and features Tyeb Mehta's (1925-2009) monumental and momentous *Falling Figure*, 1992, which was used as the central backdrop for Artists against Communalism (AAC), a twelve-hour cultural sit-in organised by SAHMAT at Shivaji Park in Mumbai ([lot 32](#), illustrated left, estimate: £1,200,000-1,800,000). At a moment when Mumbai was on the brink of erupting in communal



violence, this painting became the banner under which several artists, musicians, dancers and poets gathered together in creative unity. Christie's is privileged to offer this work to discerning international collectors. Vasudeo S. Gaitonde's *Untitled* masterpiece from 1986 marks the artist's return to painting

large canvases following a serious and debilitating accident two years prior ([lot 22](#), illustrated above right, estimate £1,000,000- 1,500,000). The instantly recognisable layered composition of non-objective bubbling forms, reference Conceptual Art, Abstract Expressionism and Zen Buddhism and showcases Gaitonde as a virtuoso at the height of his powers.

ARTS OF INDIA

Comprising 157 lots, the [Arts of India](#) sale opens with a small group of Gandharan Buddhist sculpture dated to the 2nd/3rd century from a private English collection ([lots 1-5](#)). A highlight of the sale is an important illustrated manuscript of the *Ramayana* from Jaipur, dated 1796-97 AD ([lot 76](#)). It is thought to have once belonged to Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi, the warrior queen who was a leading figure in the Indian Revolt of 1857. The sale also features a private Dutch collection illustrating examples of 18th and 19th century paintings from the Mughal, Rajput and Pahari courts of northern India. The collection includes four pages from the famed Polier Albums made for the 18th century Swiss adventurer and collector of Indian art, Antoine Louis Henri Polier ([lots 21-24](#)) and a resplendent folio from the second Guler *Ramayana* series dated to circa 1790-1800 ([lot 26](#)). Alongside these paintings are offered sumptuous objects including a collection of Mughal coloured glass rosewater sprinklers ([lot 41](#)) and an impressive, early 20th century commemorative gem-set silver casket from Rajasthan ([lot 133](#)).



[lot 26](#)

Estimate: £15,000 – 20,000



[lot 133](#)

Estimate: £20,000 – 30,000



[lot 1](#)

Estimate: £20,000 -30,000



[lot 76](#)

Estimate: £30,000 -50,000

PRESS CONTACTS:

Alex Deyzac | +44 207 3892265 | adeyzac@christies.com

Editor's Note - Also on view alongside these auctions is [Kenneth Neame](#), a curated selection of 150 lots from the renowned Mayfair antiques dealer, now in his 7th decade of trading, including Arts of India, English and European furniture and works of art, European and Chinese ceramics, Chinese and Old Master Paintings. The auction is on 13 June.

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction, private and digital sales in 2017 that totalled £5.1 billion / \$6.6 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and international expertise. Christie's offers around 350 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.

Alongside regular sales online, Christie's has a global presence in 46 countries, with 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, and Shanghai.

*Please note when quoting estimates above that other fees will apply in addition to the hammer price - see Section D of the Conditions of Sale at the back of the sale catalogue.

*Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and are reported net of applicable fees.

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Images available on request

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