

# CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | LONDON  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 13 JUNE 2018

## CONTINUED GLOBAL DEMAND FOR INDIAN ART MASTERS AT CHRISTIE'S LONDON SALES

### WORLD AUCTION RECORD FOR MAZUMDAR AND DEVI

**London/Mumbai** - Sales of South Asian Modern + Contemporary Art and the Arts of India held today, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018 in London, have achieved strong results of £4,526,500 and £1,350,000 respectively, realising a combined total of £5,876,500 with high sell through rates averaging 88% by value and 78% by lot across both sales.

**Damian Vesey, Head of the South Asian Modern + Contemporary Art London sale, commented:** “*As leaders in the field of Indian Art and South Asian Modern and Contemporary Art, we strive to offer collectors works of the highest calibre which are competitively priced and with great provenance. It was a very busy salesroom with much activity on the ‘phones and from online bidders. Top prices were achieved across the sale from early Bengal school, modernist landscapes to contemporary artists and world auction records for Hemendranath Mazumar, which sold over 15 times its pre-sale estimate, and Sunayani Devi. Strong results were also achieved for several private collections that were brought to the market for the first time. The results speak for themselves.*”

Echoing last year's strong results, Vasudeo S. Gaitonde's (1924-2001), *Untitled*, sold for £1,028,750, the work was painted in 1986, the year the artist returned to painting large canvases following a serious and debilitating accident two years before. The instantly recognisable layered composition of non-objective bubbling forms, references Conceptual Art, Abstract Expressionism and Zen Buddhism and showcases Gaitonde as a virtuoso at the height of his powers.

*Abhiman (Wounded Vanity)* by Hemendranath Mazumar (1894-1948) was another very sought-after piece in the sale which was knocked-down after several minutes of bidding for £548,700 against a pre-sale estimate of £25,000-35,000, about 15 times its high pre-sale estimate.

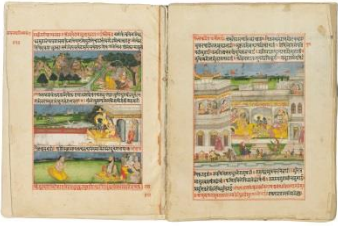

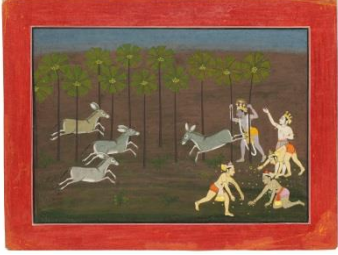
A previously unseen sculpture by Ravinder Reddy *Untitled (Goddess)*, a formative example of the artists' now iconic representations of deified Indian women, estimated at £25,000 – 35,000, sold for £100,000. The outsize reclining figure of a nude, had been left by Reddy at Goldsmiths College in the early 1980s where he had studied as an exchange student. It was acquired and used by a performance artist for a theatre project who was the consignee in today's sale.




The top selling lot in the Arts of India auction was lot 76, an important illustrated manuscript of the *RAMAYANA OF TULSI DAS*, made around 1795. The *Ramayana* or the story of Rama's journey is one of India's oldest and most popular epics. As well as a great story, it is

also an important devotional text, originally composed by Valmiki in the 5th or 4th century BC. This beautiful manuscript attracted several bidders and was sold for £212,500 against a pre-sale estimate of £30,000-50,000.

To date, Christie's holds the record prices for most Indian Masters, including the newly established record price at auction for Syed Haider Raza when his *1972 Tapovan* painting sold for US\$4,452,000 in the March 2018 New York auction. The next series of sales in this category will take place in New York in September with highlights on view in Mumbai on 21 and 22 August.

**TOP 3 SELLING LOTS:**

<p><b>Arts of India – 12 June 2018, London</b>  <b>sale total including premium £1,350,000</b></p>	<p><b>Sold by value 85%</b>  <b>Sold by lot 74%</b></p>
	<p><b>Lot 76</b>  An Important Illustrated Manuscript Of The Ramayana Of Tulsi Das Signed By Ramcharan Kayasth, Jaipur School, North India, Dated Vs 1853/1796-97AD    Sold for: £212,500 / USD 283,900</p>
	<p><b>Lot 25</b>  A prince and a princess holding fireworks provincial Mughal India, circa 1750-60  Provincial Mughal India, circa 1750-60    Sold for: £75,000 / USD 100,200</p>
	<p><b>Lot 143</b>  An Illustration From The 'Large' Guler-Basohli Bhagavata Purana Series: Krishna Attacked By Dhenukasura As His Companions Gather Fruit  First Generation After Manaku And Nainsukh, Punjab Hills, North India, Circa 1760-65    Sold for: £75,000 / USD 100,200</p>

<p><b>South Asian Modern + Contemporary Art – 12 June 2018, London</b></p> <p><b>Sale total including premium £4,526,500</b></p>	<p><b>Sold by value 91%</b></p> <p><b>Sold by lot 83%</b></p>
	<p><b>Lot 22</b>  VASUDEO S. GAITONDE (1924-2001),  Untitled, oil on canvas  39 3/8 x 29 7/8 in. (100 x 76 cm.), Painted in  1986</p> <p>Sold for: £1,028,750</p>
	<p><b>Lot 32</b>  TYEB MEHTA (1925-2009), Untitled (Falling  Figure), acrylic on canvas  119 3/8 x 119 1/2</p> <p>Sold for: 848,750</p>
	<p><b>Lot 7</b>  HEMENDRANATH MAZUMDAR (1894-1948),  Abhiman (Wounded Vanity), oil on canvas, 32  1/2 x 16 5/8 in. (82.5 x 42.2 cm.)</p> <p>Sold for: £548,750  <b>WORLD AUCTION RECORD</b></p>

**PRESS CONTACTS:**

Alexandra Deyzac | 44 207 389 2265 | [adeyzac@christies.com](mailto:adeyzac@christies.com)  
Alexandra Kindermann | 44 207 389 2664 | [akindermann@christies.com](mailto:akindermann@christies.com)

**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.*

###

Images available on request

**FOLLOW CHRISTIE'S ON:**

