

# CHRISTIE'S

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## A Lasting Engagement: The Jane and Kito de Boer Collection

### MORE THAN 150 WORKS OF MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY INDIAN ART AT AUCTION

#### PREVIEWS IN INDIA:

9-12 JANUARY IN MUMBAI

31 JANUARY – 1 FEBRUARY IN NEW DELHI

#### PREVIEW IN NEW YORK:

13-17 MARCH AT CHRISTIE'S ROCKEFELLER CENTER

#### AUCTIONS IN NEW YORK:

18 MARCH IN NEW YORK – LIVE AUCTION

13-20 MARCH – ONLINE AUCTION



**New York/Mumbai:** During New York's annual Asian Art Week in March 2020, Christie's announces an additional single-owner auction, **A Lasting Engagement: The Jane and Kito de Boer Collection**, offering more than 150 works of Indian art from the prestigious collection of Jane and Kito de Boer. This is the largest and most important single owner sale of South Asian Modern + Contemporary Art that Christie's has had the pleasure to announce in this field in the last few years. A live auction, which will take place on 18 March, will be accompanied by an online sale, offering additional works from the collection between 13-20 March.

A strong selection of highlights will be on view at Christie's India representative office during Mumbai Gallery Weekend, taking place from 9 to 12 January, and then exhibited at a preview at the Oberoi Hotel in New Delhi on 31 January and 1 February, coinciding with the India Art Fair.

Speaking about their collection, Jane and Kito de Boer noted, "We purchased our first paintings on impulse. These were an emotional response, reflecting our excitement at the vibrancy and energy of India's culture. Since then, collecting India's art has become an obsession. It has come to shape our lives. Today our collection has over 1000 works of Indian art. Far too many to display! The moment you run out of wall space and yet continue to acquire, is the time to admit that obsession has become addiction."

Deepanjana Klein, International Director of the South Asian Modern and Contemporary Art department stated: "*The depth of this Collection is a rarity in our field. Institutional in nature and intellect, Jane and Kito collected Indian art with passion that knew no bounds. It is our honor to bring a small fraction of this Collection to the market.*"

The collection, which started as a way for the couple to understand and engage with India, where they were based in the 1990s, represents today one of the largest holdings of modern Indian art in any private collection, comprising paintings, works on paper, photography and sculpture made in India over the past 120 years with a strong representation of works from the Bengal School. The first work in this impressive collection, Ganesh Pyne's painting, *Lady before the Pillar*, was acquired 25 years ago, in 1993, when the de Boers relocated to New Delhi. It took the de Boers a couple of days to purchase the work, as they were not familiar with Indian art or with collecting at the time. This moment – getting started – was the first

of four collecting stages they identify in retrospect. The second – getting hooked – happened when they bought Rameshwar Broota's large triptych *Traces of a Man V* shortly after its execution in 1998. Until this moment the couple had justifications and rational arguments for each purchase but not in this case, where they felt they had no choice but to buy the work. The next two stages go in tandem – getting confused and finding peace – in the effort to stay true to a collecting method, and not to please or to be influenced. In these final stages, the only reason to buy a work of art is the personal connection to the work itself.

Unsurprisingly, the highlights of the auction include a suite of rare works by Ganesh Pyne dating from the 1950s to the 1990s, and a range of works by Rameshwar Broota including the seminal 1982 painting, *The Last Chapter*. Additional highlights include early paintings by Akbar Padamsee and Maqbool Fida Husain, alongside a strong selection of works from the Bengal School and artists like Francis Newton Souza, A. Ramachandran, Bikash Bhattacharjee and K. Laxma Goud. Contemporary works in the auction include important early paintings by Anju Dodiya and Atul Dodiya, as well as works by Anish Kapoor, Chittrovanu Mazumdar and Hema Upadhyay.

#### Highlights of the collection on view in Mumbai and New Delhi early 2020:



RAMESHWAR BROOTA (B. 1941)  
*The Last Chapter*  
acrylic on canvas  
70 x 50 in. (177.8 x 127 cm.)  
Painted in 1982  
Estimate: \$250,000-350,000

SOUTH ASIAN MODERN + CONTEMPORARY ART



AKBAR PADAMSEE (B. 1928)  
*Paysage Urbain*  
oil on board  
40 x 40 1/2 in. (101.6 x 102.9 cm.)  
Painted in 1961  
Estimate: \$300,000-500,000

SOUTH ASIAN MODERN + CONTEMPORARY ART



GANESH PYNE (1937-2013)  
*The Animal*  
tempera on canvas  
21 3/4 x 23 1/4 in. (55.2 x 59.1 cm.)  
Executed in 1972  
Estimate: \$100,000-150,000

SOUTH ASIAN MODERN + CONTEMPORARY ART



RAMESHWAR BROOTA (B. 1941)  
*Silent Structures*  
oil on canvas  
47 x 47 in. (119.4 x 119.4 cm.)  
Painted in 1991  
Estimate: \$200,000-300,000

SOUTH ASIAN MODERN + CONTEMPORARY ART

## NOTES TO EDITORS:

### Viewing dates:

#### **Mumbai**

9–12 January / 10am – 6pm

Christie's  
B-11 Dhanraj Mahal  
Chhatrapati Shivaji Marg  
Apollo Bunder  
Mumbai, 400001

#### **Delhi**

31 January / 1pm – 6pm  
1 February / 10am – 6pm

The Oberoi  
Dr. Zakir Hussain Marg  
New Delhi, 110003

#### **New York**

13-17 March / 10am – 5pm

Christie's  
20 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, NY 10020

### Auctions:

#### **A Lasting Engagement: The Jane and Kito de Boer Collection**

Live auction - 18 March 2020  
Online auction – 13-20 March 2020

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*Images available on request*

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