

For Immediate Release

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Ram & Raza on Varanasi; in an auction of Significant Indian Paintings & Art

To celebrate 100 years of the promoting family of Bid & Hammer

The illustrious **Dadha family**, well-known for pharmaceuticals and also as the promoters of auction house Bid & Hammer, are gearing up to celebrate '100 Years of Enterprise' with a 'Centenary Year Auction' on 27th June 2014 to be held in New Delhi.



The auction features important works from the 8th century to the 20th century from the estates of **Nandalal Bose** (eminent Bengal School artist) and **Radha Devi Goenka** (renowned social worker and freedom fighter from Maharashtra who bequeathed her entire art collection to her grand-daughter) in addition to works from the collection of **Varsha & Dinesh Thacker** (one of India's most elite collector duo). Titled 'Significant Indian Art', the auction will also feature some paintings gifted by the iconic artist M F Husain to former Miss India & actress **Namrata Shirodkar Babu**, the part proceeds of which would go towards 'Heal-a-child' foundation espoused by her husband, Telugu movie superstar, Mahesh Babu. Other important estates include that of **Hemendranath Mazumder** (patronized artist by the Royals and native States of India) and **His Highness Sir Udaychand Mahtab, the Maharaja Dhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan Raj, K.C.I.E.** The total value of the 86 lots on offer ranges from approximately between Rs 18 – 25 crores (USD 3 – 4.2 million) and also comprises works from other distinguished private collections.

The auction is lead by a series of works by **M F Husain**, the highlight being a large oil on canvas depicting '**Horses against a Saffron background**' executed in **1977** and personally given by him to Mohamed Ali Baig along with a unique handwritten letter wherein he has passionately mentioned "**this piece of art is dedicated to the art itself**". The work is estimated between Rs 1 – 1.5 crores (USD 170,000 – 254,000) approximately.



Horses against a Saffron background

Some of the other rare works on offer are by Bengal School masters such as **Hemendranath Mazumdar, Rabindranath Tagore, Jamini Roy** and **Sailoz Mookerjee**. The auction catalogue also includes early works by the painters of the Bombay Progressive Artists group **Vasudeo Gaitonde** (whose works have recently become the highest selling by any Indian artist), **Syed Haider Raza, Francis Newton Souza, Ram Kumar and Tyeb Mehta**. It was the most influential group of modern artists in India, from its formation in 1947, who combined Indian subject matter with Post-Impressionist colours, Cubist forms and brusque, Expressionistic styles. There are also Stone Sculptures, Wooden Panels and Indian Miniature Paintings on offer in the catalogue.

One of the many interesting works is a 1963 Oil on Canvas from the Varanasi Series by acclaimed artist Ram Kumar estimated between Rs 45 – 75 lakhs (USD 76,000 – 127,000) approximately. **“The importance of this work in the trajectory of his career, combined with the attention on the city of Varanasi in the just concluded Indian elections is the reason I wish to pick this work out”** says Maher Dadha, Chairman & Managing Director of Bid & Hammer. He added **“Coincidentally, we also have one more work on Varanasi by another famous artist Syed Haider Raza. This work is an even earlier period work dated 1947 and on offer at only Rs 12 – 15 lakhs (USD 20,000 – 25,000).”**



Ram Kumar, Untitled (Varanasi Series), 1963



S.H. Raza, Benaras, 1947

The 1980 abstract work by Gaitonde (lot 51) was done at a crucial stage of the artists creative career and in his own words is “a play of light and colour”, this 27 x 23 in oil on cava pasted on board is estimated between Rs 1.8 – 3 crores



V. S. Gaitonde, Untitled, 1980

The property from the estate of the Maharaja of Burdwan is a magnificent stone stele of Gautam Buddha, from the 8th century and is estimated between Rs 50 – 75 lakhs (lot 7).



Stone stele of Gautam Buddha, from the 8th century



Maher Dadha, CMD, Bid & Hammer

Commenting on the special sentiments of the family attached to this auction as a whole, Maher Dadha said **“I am delighted to inform all our discerning clients that the year 2014 marks the centenary year of my family in business and I think successfully adapting and sustaining in rapidly changing business environments without compromising on our ethics and core values for 100 years is indeed a very proud feeling. This auction is a celebration of the same commitment shown in building Bid & Hammer and the catalogue will yet again bear testimony to this as we have coincidentally restricted the lot numbers to just around 100 with a view to focusing only on the best works at the most attractive prices in today’s market. This has been no easy task as we had many more equally exciting works to sift through and consider from these prominent estates and also from other noteworthy private collections.”**

Commenting further on the works he added **“I am upbeat about the response to the works on offer as they are strong, visually very aesthetic and as always our team of specialists, conservators, advisors and consultants have tirelessly strived and left no stone unturned in authenticating and researching these works”.**

The viewing will be held on 21st June 2014 (by invitation) and also on 26th June 2014 at The Imperial, New Delhi followed by the auction on 27th June 2014, at sharp 7:00pm at the same venue.

Should you have any enquiries please do not hesitate to contact us.

The standard absentee and telephone bidding options will be available to complement the floor bidding. Registration is a must prior to the auction and the form is available on our website and also within the auction catalogue.

The catalogues are now available for sale (Rs 2000 + postage) can be bought through our website or by emailing catalogues@bidandhammer.com with 'SALE 0019 CATALOGUE' in the subject line.

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