

Hoax alert for  
Husain art

PIC: SHRIYA PATIL

**exclusive**

# Auction house sent legal notice over fake Husains

by MAULIK VYAS

The MF Husain Foundation, a Mumbai trust in charge of all sales, purchases and exhibitions of art made by Husain, has sent a legal notice to Bangalore auction house Bid & Hammer Auctioneers. The Foundation alleges that the work traded by the auctioneer and displayed on its website is counterfeit. It has also asked Bid & Hammer to cancel an auction scheduled for Friday in Delhi.

**ETPanache** has reviewed a copy of the legal notice, sent to Bid & Hammer by the Trust's law firm MZM Legal. It states:

"Attempting to sell any of such purported paintings would expose the owner/exhibitor/auctioneer to immediate strict legal action which would in turn make you a party to abetment/ common intention/connivance and conspiracy of such offences, having known the same to be unauthentic.

**"Sorry not aware of any such notice and if at all received, our legal cell would have appropriately looked into it and replied"**

—ANKUSH DADHA,  
DIRECTOR, BID &  
HAMMER, IN AN SMS  
TO **ETPanache**

"We reiterate and forewarn you that selling such items is totally illegitimate and will only expose the vetted purchaser to substantial losses, if sold in the absence of a valid authentication and would thereby result into cheating innocent buyers."

Zulfiquar Memon, Managing Partner, MZM Legal, says, "The foundation has maintained a zero tolerance policy when it comes to unauthorisedly exhibiting and promoting the Art Work of late Mr MF Husain. It is important for innocent buyers to exercise

Caveat Emptor to avoid any disappointment over and above monetary losses." Bid & Hammer's Friday auction, titled 'Significant Indian Art', is also expected to include paintings by Syed Haider Raza and Tyeb Mehta, among others.

In January 2014, paintings ostensibly by Husain and Manjit Bawa were taken off from the India Art Festival in Mumbai after they were found to be fake by the Husain Foundation and Harsh Goenka, promoter, RPG Group, and a renowned art collector.

Inputs by **Rashmi Menon**