## Going 100 SOIO

SH Raza says the world is opening up to contemporary Indian art

VER the telephone, he sounds more 18 than 82, more novice than the veteran whose works have been appreciated and honoured worldwide. Perhaps that's because it's SH Raza's first London solo.

The works on display at Berkeley Square Gallery span 20 years and include some of Raza's most well-known paintings like Kundalini, Shanti, Bingdu Nag and Parbhai.

The ongoing show has been organised by Mumbai-based online auction house Saffronart.

"I feel very happy to see my paintings hung beautifully. Although I've had group shows in the UK since 1982, this one is important because it's my first solo in London," says Raza. After London, the exhibition will move to Saffronart Gallery in New York.



Despite moving to Paris in 1950, where he continues to live and work, Raza has maintained deep ties with India and visits every year. "Contemporary Indian art has matured, there are new openings for the younger generation," he says.

According to him, India's emerging popularity stems from the fact that most artists have "mastered the language of painting—line, shape, colour and form". Also, their work is firmly rooted in tradition and local

sensibilities, rather than just copying international trends.

Raza's work has always been inspired by India. "Jyo, jyo dube shyam mein, thyo, thyo ujjwal hoy (The more you move into darkness or meditate, the more you become calm)," says Raza, adding that his sources will always remain Indian.

"I drown myself in the aspects of my country."

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