

# Sotheby's Eyes

## £10,00,00,000 <sup>SR</sup>

Paintings by Husain, Raza and Mehta up for auction

### Top Works In The Auction

**Tyeb Mehta**

BLUE PAINTING, 1982

ESTIMATE  
£600,000 -  
800,000



**Maqbool Fida Husain**

UNTITLED  
(LADY ON A  
CHARIOT), 1955

ESTIMATE  
£40,000 - 60,000



**J Swaminathan**

UNTITLED (BIRD, TREE AND  
MOUNTAIN), CIRCA 1984

ESTIMATE  
£100,000 - 150,000

**Rameshwar Broota**

PRISONER OF  
WAR, 1987

ESTIMATE  
£70,000 -  
90,000



**Syed Haider Raza**

CHURCH AT  
MEULAN, 1955

ESTIMATE  
£80,000 -  
120,000



**Akbar Padamsee**

PROPHET I, 1952

ESTIMATE  
£150,000 -  
200,000

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**New Delhi:** While giving the finishing touches to one of his paintings in 1982, Indian artist Tyeb Mehta may not have imagined the fate of his creation a few decades hence. The work titled 'Blue Painting' found its way to a museum in Japan through a collector who had an eye for several of Mehta's works. Years later, the painting - a woman's body in overlapping planes of blues - is going to London for an auction shortly after being showcased in India and New York.

The work's tour is being managed by auction house Sotheby's. It's been priced at £600,000 to £800,000 (₹5.97-7.97 crore) ahead of the auction next month.

"We see a lot of business opportunity and it is the right time to market Indian art to buyers worldwide," said Yamini Mehta, international director for Indian and South Asian Art at Sotheby's.

Close to 300 artworks from a wide range of artists from India and the region will go under the hammer for which Sotheby's expects to raise around £10 million in total.

The India Week auction, to be held in London, will feature art from India spanning 1500 to the present.

The auction comprises paintings by modern masters including Maqbool Fida

Husain, Syed Haider Raza, Francis Newton Souza and Akbar Padamsee to name a few. There are also works by contemporary artists from India and Pakistan such as Rashid Rana, Bharti Kher and Subodh Gupta.

"Many works will come into the market for the first time," said Mehta, adding that the works had been sourced from across the world. For example, the works by Rabindra Nath Tagore are from the William and Mildred Archer Collection.

One of Husain's works has come from the Czech Republic, while those of Padamsee were from Brazil, she said.

The auction house expects a variety of buyers, including non-resident Indians and international collectors, to show interest in the auction for which 3,000 catalogues will be sent out.

"Around 1,000 catalogues will be circulated in India," said Mehta, giving a sense of the number of active buyers the auction house was targeting from the country.

Sotheby's has been actively engaging with Indian artists, buyers and sellers and continuously looks at opportunities to conduct auctions in India.

"India is an interesting market with a lot of potential and we keep exploring the opportunities to conduct auctions here," said Edward Gibbs, chairman, Middle East and India.