

Raza's *La Terre* sells for \$3.1 m in New York



WITH Syed Haider Raza's *La Terre* selling for a whopping \$3.1 million, Indian art has become the centre of attention at the Asian Art Week in New York.

The South Asian Sale was led by Syed Haider Raza's *La Terre* which was estimated at around \$2.5 million but sold to an American collector for \$3.1 million. The Shelley Souza collection at the New York Christie's sale got \$2.8 million taking the total South Asian sale to \$7.3 million.

Painted in 1973, *La Terre* is an important work that belongs to a key period in Raza's career when, after many years of working within the style of the École de Paris, his artistic path brought him full circle and he began to integrate vital elements of his Indian childhood and cultural heritage into his paintings.



The 1973 painting was estimated at \$2.5 million.

Rooted in Raza's childhood memories of life growing up in the small and densely forested village of Kakalya near the Narmada River valley in Madhya Pradesh, the painting is an evocative expression of the rich density and strong sensory life inherent with the deep, warm, blackness of the Indian night.

Deepanjana Klein, head of sale, South Asian Modern + Contemporary Art, New York, commented: "This sale of South Asian Modern + Contemporary Art demonstrated a tremendous amount of international interest, with buyers of the top lots bidding eagerly from around the globe for these significant works."

"Shelley Souza Collection performed exceptionally well and saw the institutional participation, cementing Francis Newton Souza's reputation as one of the greatest figures in Indian Modernism," said Hugo Weihe, international director of Asian Art.

Auction history shows that *La Terre* was sold at the Christie's Post War and Contemporary sale in London 2008 for \$2.5 million.

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