

Indian auction house Saffronart comes up with a sale of Pakistani art

KOLKATA: Indian auction house [Saffronart](#) is coming up with a sale of Pakistani art. One of the highlights of the auction is a portrait of one of the leading [Bollywood](#) stars by one amongst the most recognized Pakistani contemporary artists -- Salman Khan's portrait by Rashid Rana. The auction provides an opportunity for collectors to acquire a selection of artworks by pre-eminent modern and contemporary Pakistani artists. With a total of 70 lots, this auction will take place on November 7-8, 2012.

The auction features works by modern Pakistani artists including Sadequain, Ahmed Parvez, Jamil Naqsh and [Anwar Jalal Shemza](#), as well as contemporary artists such as Imran Qureshi, Mohammad Ali Talpur, Naiza Khan, Ayaz Jokhio, Shazia Sikander and Nusra [Latif Querishi](#).

With a total estimate of Rs 1.86 crore (US\$364,925) to Rs 2.45 crore (US\$481,630), this auction promises art connoisseurs some of the finest modern and contemporary Pakistani art to come to market in recent years.

The auction includes a portrait of Bollywood actor [Salman Khan](#) by Rashid Rana from his Ommatidia series of photomontages, estimated at Rs 7,50,000 to Rs 10,00,000 (USD 15,000 to 20,000). Rana blurs the boundaries between advertising, painting, print making, photography and video.

In this series, created in 2004, the artist comments on the social construction of celebrity and the role of fantasy. This series of works, however, is not about the star. This portrait is composed of several thousand smaller images of ordinary Pakistani men, whose shared aspirations Rana believes uphold the entire industry.

Speaking about the auction in an email statement, Dinesh Vazirani, CEO and co-founder of Saffronart, said, ""We are privileged to be offering this selection of modern and contemporary Pakistani art at this auction. This auction offers Indian, Pakistani and international collectors an opportunity to appreciate the richness and diversity of the art created in Pakistan over the last 60 years.""