

Saffronart auction to also feature photography

KOLKATA: Well-known auctioneer Saffronart is coming up with its Winter Auction, which will feature Modern & Contemporary Art and Photography. The sale will unveil 115 lots, which sport a total estimate of Rs 18 crore-plus. Among the Modernist artists figure VS Gaitonde, Akbar Padamsee, Jagdish Swaminathan, Rameshwar Broota, Manjit Bawa and Arpita Singh.

The Contemporary painters embrace Subodh Gupta, Baiju Parthan, Riyas Komu and TV Santosh. The sale will also offer works of well-known photographers such as Raghu Rai, Dayanita Singh, TS Nagarajan, Prabuddha Dasgupta, Vivan Sundaram and Pushpamala N.

The highlights encompass a 1965 untitled VS Gaitonde estimated at Rs 1.20-1.68 crore, a 1974 J Swaminathan untitled priced at Rs 86.4 lakh to Rs 1.05 crore and an untitled Arpita Singh valued at Rs 72,00,000-86,40,000. In the same breath, an Akbar Padamsee untitled from 1996 is going for Rs 70-90 lakh and TV Santosh's Scars of an Ancient Error—1 that is estimated in the range of Rs 20-25 lakh. In the top lots is also a Dayanita Singh photograph, Gandhi's Room, Anand Bhavan, Allahabad, shot in 2000, which is pegged in the band of Rs 4-6 lakh.

Explaining the move to field Indian photography in the auction, Saffronart director Dinesh Vazirani told ET in an email. "We believe that there is significant interest in Indian photography and a lot of remarkable work is happening in this genre in India. We trust the time is right to elevate contemporary Indian photography and take it to a global audience."

Dwelling on the auction against the backdrop of recent tragedy in Mumbai, Mr Vazirani said, "Saffronart will not allow acts of cowardice like these to break our fortitude or dilute our resolve to remain in control of our daily lives. We stand in solidarity with all those who have suffered, an in hope with all those working toward a safer future."