

RL Fine Arts

Modern Masterworks

Exhibition: Friday March 21 to Sunday April 20, 2008

Opening reception: Friday March 21 6:30 to 8:30pm

The exhibition brings together important and masterful paintings of some of the most famous artists in Indian modern art. These include works by M.F.Husain, S.H.Raza, F.N.Souza and Ram Kumar. Each artist has created a unique and significant contribution to the history of art.

Works exhibited include the important, large work by Raza, 'La Terre', 1973, inspired by the beauty of nature and expressed in a rare large format, complex abstraction of cinematic sweep and grandeur. 'La Terre' is a masterful work that shows Raza's amazing command of color and epic statement. From the year 2000, another work by Raza, 'Prakriti', is from the period where he has sought inspiration from ancient symbols and ideas, translating these into a modern vocabulary. Inspired by the Bindu, the germ or origin of life, Raza's meditation on nature expresses itself in a more geometric and controlled manner, but with an inspired use of color that is hypnotic.

Works by M.F.Husain are from the early 1960's and 1970's, considered by many an important period of work, where the artist successfully merged the tenets of Western modernism with an Indian sensibility and tradition. Rarely abandoning figuration, works such as 'The Sixth Seal', show the artist's mastery of his craft, sculpting almost 3 dimensional motifs on the canvas, and evoking a thrilling pagan atmosphere, from the dawn of ages. Another work showcases the artist's fascination with the power of horses, a theme he returns to many times in his work, constantly exploring and expressing their beauty, stature and potent eroticism.

F.N.Souza is an artist whose command of technique and sense of form and structure was truly formidable and allowed him to create powerful and challenging works. The Nude from 1962 in the exhibition is an abundant and sensual force of nature, beautiful and voluptuous. The Still Life with church objects from 1959 takes these liturgical items and transforms them into a meditation on art history, composition and religion.

Ram Kumar is noted for his constant exploration of landscape, with works sometimes expressing complete abstraction, and others maintaining a semblance of recognisable motifs. The works in this exhibition are masterful examples of his abstracted landscapes, showing his deep perception of the surrounding world.

Each of these artist has a unique voice and they are truly the master artists of Indian Modernism, coming of age in the tumultuous period of post Independence, and continuing to create important oeuvres, some of them even to this day.

Please contact Peter Louis at RL Fine Arts for images for press, and for further information. Peter Louis mobile number is: 1 917 716 8732

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