

CULTURE

At Masterpiece London, a generous display of the best art the subcontinent has to offer

At the show this year, New Delhi's Dhoomimal Gallery makes its debut with India's revered modernists, while Pakistani-American artist Anila Quayyum Agha takes centre stage on this global platform.

By Rhea Daulet-Singh

6 July 2022



Summers in London are filled with culture, art and sport, whether it's the Wimbledon Championship, or the much coveted Ascot races. Another such attraction is Masterpiece London. According to Lucie Kitchener, the Managing Director of the fair, Masterpiece's "unique fusion of heritage and style, tradition and the contemporary, creates an exceptional week of cultural, culinary and social experiences in the heart of London." She says that the fair "introduces visitors to periods or styles they might not otherwise encounter, and presents an unparalleled opportunity for new and established collectors to discover outstanding works of art for sale."



Aisle view at Masterpiece London Ben Fisher Photograph, Courtesy Masterpiece London

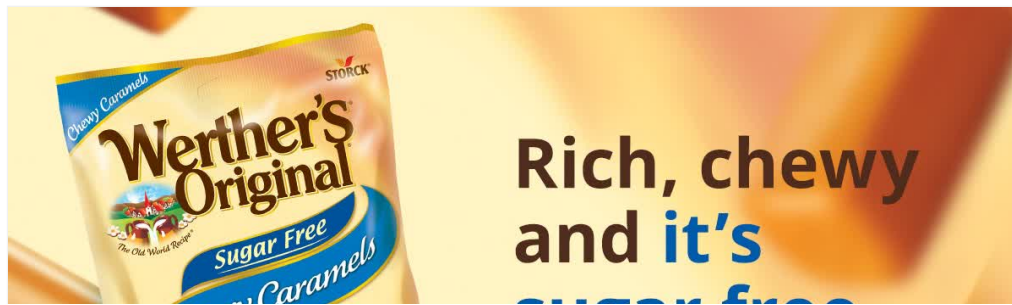
This year, the dynamic displays at Masterpiece include the likes of antique furniture, a Colombian emerald by Moussaieff, and a skull of a Triceratops dinosaur from over 60 million years ago. Arian Alan, one of the leading dealers in 19th century furniture, are displaying a large Louis XV style gilt, and a bronze-and-crystal-cut chandelier.

Similarly, Edward Hurst is exhibiting a pair of George III Coade stone thrones. designed

AD

INDIA ▾ ☰

ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN DECORATING LIFESTYLE CELEBRITY CULTURE THE TRU PROJECT



Also read: [Pundole's Fine Art Sale 2021: Historical Souza, N.S Bendre, Raza canvases on the block](#)



David Aaron at Masterpiece London, 2022 Ben Fisher Photography, Courtesy Masterpiece London

Of the 125 exhibitors at the fair, one is the Dhoomimal Gallery from New Delhi—the oldest contemporary art gallery in India. It was established by Shri Ram Chand Jain in 1936, and was one of the first galleries to showcase the works of the revered Modernist F.N. Souza. Gallery director Uday Jain says, “It is our first experience of participating in Masterpiece London. Dhoomimal is showcasing a lineup of modern masters from India, mostly from the progressive artists group that are considered the most important in modern Indian art. The artists featured are F.N. Souza, M.F. Husain, [S.H. Raza](#), H.A.

Gade, J. Swaminathan, Krishen Khanna, B. Prabha, Sakti Burman, Satish Gujral and A. Ramachandran.

Souza's daring treatment of the human figure and bold use of colours make his works intriguing to look at at the Dhoomimal booth. Additionally, M.F Hussain's vibrant narratives reflect 20th century Western norms, but have their unique artistic vocabulary that flaunt thick strokes of paint exuding intense emotion and vigour. The beauty of Masterpiece London is that it gives galleries such as Dhoomimal a platform to bring the finest of Indian art to the world stage. Jain adds, "A lot of overseas guests really liked what they saw, especially the bird tree series by Swaminathan, the landscapes of Gade, and Souza's dynamic works. However, they did not have any context of these artists. Indian art definitely needs to be shown more internationally for people to gain context and perspective."



Works of M.F. Husain on display at Masterpiece London

Each edition of Masterpiece exhibits a striking work of art under the banner of 'Masterpiece Presents', depicting important themes related to society, culture and

materiality. The light installations by Pakistani-American artist Anila Quayyum Agha, represented by Sundaram Tagore Gallery, is one of the main attractions at the fair this year (*featured image*). The steel cubes are lit up from within, and have intricately carved arabesque designs on the outer surface illuminating its surroundings. The patterns that are reflected on the walls are synonymous with ‘richly ornamented’ Islamic architecture—the kind seen on mosques. One feels an instant sensation of serenity and stillness as they absorb the sheer beauty of the bright installation, juxtaposed against the dimly lit room.

Also read: This evocative new exhibition in London brings together South Asia's greatest modern artists



Works of F. N. Souza on display at Masterpiece London

The fair also has a host of educational talks and workshops, enhancing one’s overall viewing experience. According to Kitchener, “We host special events at the fair and throughout the year for emerging collectors; symposia and mentee schemes for young academics, veters and curators; and in the past year our Emerging Artist Programme—

produced in partnership with Royal Bank of Canada and Sotheby's Institute—engaged with over 2,000 artists around the world, helping to impart the practical knowledge needed to establish their artistic practices.”

Masterpiece London is a cultural mecca for anyone looking to discover the best in art, design, furniture and jewellery—from antiquity to the present day. Kitchener says, "We are thrilled to be back at the Royal Hospital Chelsea and returning visitors will find a refreshed layout and several new artistic platforms, alongside our carefully curated mix of participating galleries. After three years away, the fair returns with an exciting, new, yet familiar experience.”

Also read: [This Art Deco mansion in Kolkata is home to modern Indian masters](#)

Topics art show FN Souza LONDON exhibition

READ MORE
