



M F Husain



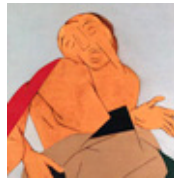
F N Souza



S H Raza



Ram Kumar



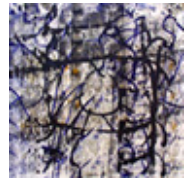
Tyeb Mehta



Akbar Padamsee



V Gaitonde



J Swaminathan

# The New York Times

'Ashta Nayak: Eight Pioneers of Indian Contemporary Art'

ArtsIndia

206 Fifth Avenue, at 25th Street

Manhattan

Through April 29

If you'd like a crib sheet of background information on the work in "Edge of Desire: Recent Art in India" at the Asia Society and the Queens Museum of Art, consider a visit to this show, an homage to a group of painters who came to prominence in India and elsewhere in the early post-independence years.

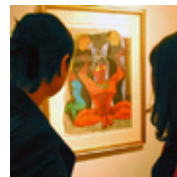
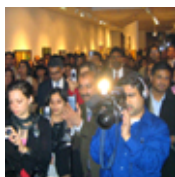
In 1947 in Mumbai, Syed Haider Raza and Francis Newton Souza (1924-2002) helped start the Progressive Artists' Group, which decisively engaged with European modernism of the day. Mr. Raza subsequently moved to France and developed a geometric abstraction incorporating Hindu symbols, while Souza, an irascible chameleon of an artist, went to London. A dark, scratchy landscape by him from 1954 is the earliest piece in this show, though he is also represented by nude studies and still lifes.

Landscape, much abstracted, is a recurrent subject of Ram Kumar, while Akbar Padamsee and Tyeb Mehta concentrated, in very different ways, on the human figure. Jagdish Swaminathan (1929-1994), a political activist turned painter, worked in a fluid, graphic style suggesting written texts, while Vasudeo S. Gaitonde (1924-2001) developed a nonreferential, meditative abstraction that influenced younger artists like Nasreen Mohamedi (1937-1990), the subject of a spellbinding little survey at the Drawing Room in SoHo.

No artist here is more versatile, though, than the protean Maqbool Fida Husain. A member of the Progressive Artists' Group and still active at 90, he seems to have painted it all. His "Maya the Dream" (1972), done in rich umber and emerald green, combines figures, landscape and abstraction, modern styles and ancient narratives, exactly the mix that, in varying formulations, made him and his colleagues the path-clearers they were and are.

- HOLLAND COTTER

Photos of the Opening reception, click for larger images



**The New York show: Opened March 31,**  
Runs through April 29, 2005

The opening reception was a huge success! If you were lucky enough to get in the door, you were treated to a wonderful collection of art, along with our Guest of Honor, M.F. Husain. The show will be hanging on our walls until April 29th. Please come back for a better look, or if you have not seen it yet, don't miss out on this landmark event!



**The Palo Alto show: Opens May 20, 6.00pm to 9.00 pm**  
Runs through June 18, 2005

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