

S. H. Raza | *A Retrospective*

December 18th, 2014 – January 29th, 2015

Press Preview & Opening Reception: Thursday, December 18th 6:00pm – 8:00pm

35 Great Jones St., New York NY 10012

Aicon Gallery New York is proud to announce a retrospective exhibition of the work of **S. H. Raza**, one of India's most renowned and celebrated modernist painters. As one of the finest living members and founders of India's post-independence Progressive Artist Group, Raza's lifetime of work spans over six decades and traces his deeply personal exploration of abstraction throughout the course of Indian modernism. On view will be works from every period of the artist's career, including a group of rarely seen early masterworks from the 1950's and 60's. The exhibition represents the first major retrospective of Raza's work held in New York in over a decade.

Born in 1922 in Babaria, Madhya Pradesh, India, Raza left for France in 1950 to study at the Ecole Nationale des Beaux Arts, Paris, where he absorbed and eventually sought to redefine the still evolving tenets of 20th Century Western modernism and abstraction.

Beginning first with richly saturated expressionist landscapes, his work soon developed into rigid, geometric representations of French towns and villages. In the 1960's, the lines blurred and color once again began to dominate his abstract expressionist canvases, before pure geometric forms emerged to become the dominating theme, which has remained to this day. Yet the essence and imprints of the artist's early cityscapes, landscapes and horizons remain visible within his uniquely complex personal language of geometric symbolism rooted in Indian aesthetics and philosophy. These varied periods of Raza's work, though distinct, form a continuum - one that is a testament to the artist's constant negotiation to develop his painterly vision. Breaking away from frames like nation and specific locations in time and space, Raza's body of work is trans-cultural in its appeal. Although the Progressive Artists Group disbanded in 1956, its leading artists continued to cultivate their individual styles, and to this day remain an influence and inspiration for generations of contemporary South Asian artists.

S. H. Raza was awarded the Prix de la Critique in Paris in 1956. In 1962 he served as a visiting lecturer at the University of California in Berkeley, USA. He has participated in numerous exhibitions, including the Sao Paulo Biennale in 1958, the Biennale de Menton, in France in 1966, 1968 and in 1978, and Contemporary Indian Painting, at the Royal Academy in London, in 1982. He was conferred the Padma Shree Award by the President of India in 1981, and the Padma Bhushan in 2007. Raza lives and works in Delhi.



S. H. Raza, *Rajasthan*, 1982, Acrylic on canvas, 60 x 60 in.

Please contact Aicon Gallery (Harry@Aicongallery.com) for more information.

S. H. RAZA

Born 1922 in Babaria, Madhya Pradesh, India.

Since he began painting in the early 1940s in India, Raza's subject, style and technique have evolved in distinct stages through his migration to France, his interaction with Abstract Expressionism through the 1950s and 1960s and his return to a core Indian aesthetic philosophy in the 1970's. These periods of Raza's work, though distinct, form a continuum - one that is a testament to the artist's constant negotiation to develop his painterly vision. Breaking away from frames like nation and specific locations in time and space, Raza's body of work is trans-cultural in its appeal. Although the Progressive Artists Group disbanded in 1956, its leading artists continued to cultivate their individual styles, and to this day remain an influence and inspiration for generations of contemporary South Asian artists.

S. H. Raza lives and works in New Delhi.

Education

1950 – 1953	Ecole Nationale des Beaux-Arts, Paris
1943 – 1947	Sir J.J. School of Art, Mumbai
1939 – 1943	Nagpur School of Art, Nagpur

Select Solo Exhibitions

2012	<i>Bindu Vistaar</i> , Grosvenor Gallery, London
2011	<i>Punaragaman</i> , Vadehra Art Gallery and Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi
2010	Raza Ceramiques, Galerie Flora J, Paris Galerie Patrice Trigano, Paris RL Fine Arts, New York Akar Prakar, Kolkata <i>Recent Works</i> , Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi
2007	<i>Raza; a retrospective</i> , Saffronart, New York <i>Celebrating 85 Years of Living Legend S H Raza</i> , a Traveling Exhibition at Hong Kong, Singapore, Dubai, Mumbai, New Delhi organized by Aryan Art Gallery, New Delhi
2006	Rang Ras – S. H. Raza, Tao Art Gallery, Mumbai Metamorphosis, Aryan Art Gallery, Mumbai, Delhi and Hong Kong
2005	Saffronart and Berkeley Square Gallery, London and New York Aryan Art Gallery, Delhi Tao Art Gallery, Mumbai
2004	Aryan Art Gallery, Delhi
2002	Jehangir Art Gallery, Sharan Apparao Gallery, Gallery Chemould, Mumbai
1999	Gallery Art 54, New York
1997	Le Parcons du regard, Oletta, Corsices, France Galleri Grewal Mohanjeet, Paris Roopankar Museum of Fine Arts, Bharat Bhavan, Bhopal; Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai; National Gallery of Modern Art, Delhi.
1994	L'Artheque d'Enterprise, Group Michel Ferrier, Echirolle, Grenoble
1992	Jehangir Nicholsan Museum, National Centre for Performing Arts, Mumbai Parcours des Arts, La Louvesc, France
1991	Retrospective 1952-1991, Palais Carnles, Musee de Menton, France Galerie Eterso, Cannes

Select Group Exhibitions

2012	<i>Extending the Line</i> , Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi <i>Gallery Collection</i> , Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi <i>Contemporary: A Selection of Modern and Contemporary Art</i> , presented by Sakshi Gallery at The Park, Chennai
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- Through the Ages: South Asian Sculpture and Painting from Antiquity to Modernism*, Aicon Gallery, New York
Sightings, Sakshi Gallery, Mumbai
- 2011 *Adbhutam: Rasa in Indian Art*, Centre of International Modern Art(CIMA), Kolkata
The Path of the Lotus: Indian Art, Grosvenor Gallery, London
Modern Masters, Aicon Gallery, New York
Form and Formlessness, Art Alive Gallery, Gurgaon
POP: Progressives on Paper, Aicon Gallery, NY
Anecdotes, Sakshi Gallery, New Delhi
Masterclass, Dhoomimal Art Gallery, New Delhi
Continuum, Delhi Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 2010 *Besides Paris*, Birla Academy of Art and Culture, Kolkata
Paper Trails, Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi
The Progressives & Associates, Grosvenor Gallery, London
From Miniature to Modern: Traditions in Transition, Rob Dean Art, London
Above and Beyond, Aicon Gallery, London
Masters of Maharashtra, collection from Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi, at Piramal Gallery, National Center for the Performing Arts, Mumbai
- 2009 *Bharat Ratna! Jewels of Modern Indian Art*, Museum of Fine Arts Boston
Indian Art After Independence: Selected Works from the Collections of Virginia & Ravi Akhoury and Shelley & Donald Rubin, Emily Lowe Gallery, Hempstead
In Search of the Vernacular, Aicon Gallery, New York
Think Small, Art Alive Gallery, New Delhi
Progressive to Altermodern: 62 Years of Indian Modern Art, Grosvenor Gallery, London
Masterclass, The Arts Trust, Mumbai
- 2008 *Freedom 2008 : Sixty Years After Indian Independence*, Centre for International Modern Art (CIMA), Kolkata
- 2007 – 2008 *India Art Now: Between Continuity and Transformation*, Province of Milan, Milan, Italy
- 2005 Aicon Gallery, New York
- 2004 Aryan Art Gallery, Delhi
S. H. Raza and Manish Pushkale – Recent Works’, Guild Art Gallery, Mumbai
Art Musings, Mumbai
- 2003 *Des duos et des couples*, Aix-en-Provence, France (with Pablo Picasso and Françoise Gilot)
- 2002 Jane Voorhies Zimmerli Art Museum, New Jersey; Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai
Saffronart and Pundole Art Gallery, Metropolitan Pavilion, New York
- 2001 Saffronart and Pundole Art Gallery, Metropolitan Pavilion, New York
Indian Contemporary Fine Art, Saffronart and Apparao Galleries, Los Angeles
Symphony in White, Gallery 7, Mumbai
Cultural Ties, Kapil Jariwala Gallery, London
- 2000 Arthur M. Sackler Gallery and Smithsonian Freer Gallery of Art, Smithsonian Institute, Washington D.C.
Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Fukuoka, Japan

Awards and Honors

- 2007 Awarded the 'Padma Bhushani', by the Government of India
- 2004 Lalit Kala Ratna Puraskar, Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi
- 1981 Awarded the 'Padma Shri', by the Government of India
Elected Fellow of the Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi
Awarded Kalidas Sanman National Award, Government of Madhya Pradesh
- 1956 Awarded the 'Prix de la Critique', Paris
- 1948 Gold Medal, Bombay Art Society, Mumbai
- 1946 Silver Medal, Bombay Art Society, Mumbai