

FRANCIS NEWTON SOUZA

Born 1924 in Saligaon, Goa, India.

Souza's works have reflected the influence of various facets of art: the folk art of his native Goa, the full-blooded paintings of the Renaissance, the religious fervor of the Catholic Church, the landscapes of 18th and 19th century Europe, along with the distinctive work of the Cubists. A recurrent theme in his work is the dichotomy of male/female relationships, with his emphasis upon the related conflicts, friction and sexual tensions. In his drawings, he used line with economy, while still able to capture fine detail in his forms; he also favored a profusion of crosshatched strokes that compose the overall structure of his subject and style.

As one of the original founders of the Progressive Artists' Group in 1947 – along with M.F. Husain, Raza, Ara and others – F. N. Souza led the edge of the Indian modernist art movement. He is widely recognized as a leading modernist, and was the only Indian artist to be included in Tate Modern's group exhibition on 20th Century Modernism in 2002.

An iconoclast known for his powerful and provocative imagery, F. N. Souza's unrestrained and graphic style created much controversy in his life and work. His repertoire of subjects covers still life, landscape, nudes and icons of Christianity, boldly rendered in a frenzied distortion of form. Souza's paintings express defiance and impatience with convention and the banality of everyday life.

In 1942, Souza was expelled from the J.J. School of Art for partaking in the 'Quit India' movement. He left for London in 1949, making his mark on the European art scene and rose to fame with his 1955 solo show at Gallery One, London – the same year his autobiographical essay *Nirvana of a Maggot* was published. In 1967, he migrated to New York where he received the Guggenheim International Award.

Died 2002, Mumbai, India.

Education

1940 – 1945 Diploma in Painting, Sir J.J. School of Art, Mumbai
1960 Study Tour of Italy, Italian Government Scholarship

Select Posthumous Solo and Group Exhibitions

2015 *After Midnight: Indian Modern and Contemporary Art, 1947 – 1997*, Queens Museum, New York
'Francis Newton Souza : Works on Paper', Kanoria Centre For Arts, Ahmedabad; Gallery 7, Mumbai
'Abby Grey and Indian Modernism: Selections from the NYU Art Collection', Grey Art Gallery, New York University, New York

2014 *'Rituals and Reasons: Invoking the Sensual in Art'*, Apprao Galleries, Chennai

2013 *'Ram Kumar and the Bombay Progressives: The Form and the Figure Part II'*, Aicon Gallery, New York
'Ideas of the Sublime', presented by Vadehra Art Gallery at Lalit Kala Akademi New Delhi Nature Morte, New Delhi
'Edge of Reason- and beyond, into pure creativity', presented by Indian Art Circle at Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi
'The Naked and the Nude: The Body in Indian Modern Art', Delhi Art Gallery, New

- Delhi
- 2012
'Diva', Sakshi Gallery, Mumbai
'Talking Heads', Art Alive Gallery, New Delhi
'Iconic Processions', Aicon Gallery, New York
Extending the Line, Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi
Gallery Collection, Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi
Migrations, Tate Britain, London
F. N. Souza: Landsapes, Heads and Nudes, Grosvenor Gallery, London
Contemporary: A Selection of Modern and Contemporary Art, presented by Sakshi Gallery at The Park, Chennai
Through the Ages: South Asian Sculpture and Painting from Antiquity to Modernism, Aicon Gallery, New York
- 2011
Crossings: Time Unfolded, Part 2, Kiran Nadar Museum of Art (KNMA), New Delhi
The Body Unbound, Rubin Museum of Art, New York
Picasso Souza, Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi
Ethos V: Indian Art Through the Lens of History (1900 to 1980), Indigo Blue Art, Singapore
The Path of the Lotus: Indian Art, Grosvenor Gallery, London
Modern Masters, Aicon Gallery, New York
Ida Kar: Portraits of F N Souza, British Council, New Delhi; Grosvenor Vadehra, London; Pundole Art Gallery, Mumbai; Sunaparanta Goa Centre, Panjim
Manifestations VI, Delhi Art Gallery, New Delhi
Seduction by Masquerade, Nature Morte, New Delhi
States of Departure: Progressives to Present Day, Aicon Gallery, London
POP: Progressives on Paper, Aicon Gallery, New York
Anecdotes, Sakshi Gallery, Mumbai
Natural Bodies, Subverted Canons, Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi
Goddess, Lion, Peasant, Priest: Modern and Contemporary Indian Art, from the Collection of Shelley and Donald Rubin at Museum Oglethorpe, Atlanta
High-Light, presented by Sakshi Gallery, Mumbai at the Oberoi, Gurgaon
Manifestations V, Delhi Art Gallery, New Delhi
Masterclass, Dhoomimal Art Gallery, New Delhi
Time Unfolded, Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, New Delhi
Roots in the Air, Branches Below: Modern & Contemporary Art from India, San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose
Continuum, Delhi Art Gallery, New Delhi
Celebrations 2011, Kumar Gallery, New Delhi
- 2010
Figure/Landscape: Part Two, Aicon Gallery, London
Figure/Landscape: Part One, Aicon Gallery, New York
The Modernists, RL Fine Arts, New York
Paper Trails, Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi
A Missing History: 'The Other Story' Re-visited, Aicon Gallery, London
The Progressives & Associates, Grosvenor Gallery, London
A. SYCO, The Viewing Room, Mumbai
From Miniature to Modern: Traditions in Transition, Rob Dean Art, London in association with Pundole Art Gallery, Mumbai
Volte-Face: Souza's Iconoclastic Vision, presented by Dhoomimal Gallery at Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi
Cross Purposes, Mascalls Gallery, West Kent; Ben Uri Museum, London
Vahana, Bombay Art Gallery, Mumbai
Manifestations IV, Delhi Art Gallery, New Delhi
Roots, 25th Anniversary Exhibition of Sakshi Art Gallery, Mumbai at the Park, Chennai
Celebration 2010, Annual Exhibition, Kumar Art Gallery, New Delhi

- 2009 *Master Class*, The Arts Trust, Mumbai
Anglo-Indian Express, Grosvenor Gallery, London
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
F.N.Souza: Heads, Landscapes and Nudes, Grosvenor Gallery, London
In Search of the Vernacular, Aicon Gallery, New York
Progressive to Altermodern: 62 Years of Indian Modern Art, Grosvenor Gallery, London
Kalpna: Figurative Art in India, presented by The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) at Aicon Gallery, London; The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)
Tracing Time, Bodhi Art, Mumbai
Armory Show, New York presented by Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi
Modern India, organized by Institut Valencià d'Art Modern (IVAM) and Casa Asia, Ministry of Culture at Valencia, Spain
Expanding Horizons: Contemporary Indian Art, Traveling Exhibition presented by Bodhi Art at Ravinder Natya Mandir, P.L.Despande Kala Academy Art Gallery, Mumbai; Sant Dyaneshwar Natya Sankul Art Gallery, Amravati; Platinum Jubilee Hall, Nagpur; Tapadia Natya Mandir Sports Hall, Aurangabad; Hirachand Nemchand Vachanalay's, Solapur; Acharya Vidyanand Sanskrutik Bhavan, Kolhapur; PGSR Sabhagriha, SNDT, Pune; Sarvajanic Vachanalaya Hall, Nasik
- 2008 *Frame Figure Field: 20th Century Modern and Contemporary Indian Art*, Delhi Art Gallery, New Delhi
3 Masters Briefly, Akar Prakar, Kolkata
F.N.Souza, presented by Saffronart and Grosvenor Gallery, London at Saffronart, New York
Modern and Contemporary Indian Art, Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi
Multiple Modernities: India, 1905-2005, Philadelphia Museum of Art, USA
Freedom 2008: Sixty Years After Indian Independence, Centre for International Modern Art (CIMA), Kolkata
Tales, Reflection and Constructs, ITC Windsor, Bangalore
Summer Collection, works by Modern and Contemporary South Asian Artists, Aicon Gallery, London
Winter Moderns, M.F. Husain, F.N., Souza, Shyamal Dutta Ray, Satish Gujral and Prabha, Aicon Gallery, New York
The Ghost of Souza, Aicon Gallery, New York
- 2007 *From the Vault*, Aicon Gallery, London and New York
Bacon, Freud, Mehta, Souza, Grosvenor Vadehra, New Delhi
- 2006 *F. N. Souza, Religion & Erotica*, Tate Britain, London
Self-Portrait, Renaissance to Contemporary, National Portrait Gallery, London
- 2005 *Francis Newton Souza*, Saffronart and Grosvenor Gallery, London/New York
Ashta Nayak: Eight Pioneers of Indian Art, Gallery ArtsIndia, New York
Modern Indian Paintings, Grosvenor Gallery, London
A Tribute to F. N. SOUZA, Kumar Gallery, New Delhi /Manifestations III, Nehru Centre, Mumbai; Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi, and Delhi Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 2004 *Manifestations II*, Jehangir Gallery and the Delhi Art Gallery
Ethos: Contemporary Indian Art, Indigo Blue Art, Singapore
Souza in London, curated by Yashodhara Dalmia from the Bhayana family collection,
British Council, New Delhi
- 2003 *Modern Indian Paintings*, Grosvenor Gallery, London
Francis Newton Souza: Works on paper, Saffronart, Mumbai
F.N Souza: A Definitive Retrospective, Gallery Artsindia, New York

- 2002 Manifestations, Delhi Art Gallery
Souza and Friends, Grosvenor Gallery, London,
Souza in Bombay and Goa, Art Musings Gallery, Mumbai
- 2001 *Souza: A Modern Myth*, Gallery 88, Calcutta

Select Solo Exhibitions

- 2001 *Francis Newton Souza Rare Works: 1965-2001*, Galerie 88, Kolkata
- 1999 Copeland Fine Art Gallery, Columbus, Ohio, USA
- 1998 Bose Pacia Modern, New York
- 1997 *Souza: A Retrospective*, Julian Hartnolls Gallery, London
- 1996 Art Heritage, New Delhi
Souza from the Alkazi Collection, Academy of Fine Arts and Literature New Delhi
The Acrylics of Souza, L.T.G. Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 1995 *The Chemicals of Souza*, L. T.G. Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 1993 *Souza, 1940s-1990s*, Dhoomimal Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 1985 Pundole Art Gallery, Mumbai
- 1983 *Souza in the Forties*, Dhoomimal Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 1976 Dhoomimal Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 1975 76 Arts 38, London.
- 1968 London Arts Gallery Detroit, USA.
- 1966 Dhoomimal Art Gallery, New Delhi
 Grosvenor Gallery, London
- 1963 Taj Gallery, Mumbai.
- 1962 Kumar Gallery, New Delhi.
- 1961 Gallery One, London
 62 North Audley Street London.
- 1960 Gallery One, London
- 1959 Gallery One, London
- 1957 Gallery One, London
- 1955 Gallery One, London.
- 1954 Institute of Contemporary Arts, London
 Gallery Creuze, London
- 1951 Indian Embassy, London

Select Group Exhibitions

- 2001 *Souza & Baiju*, Saffronart and Apparao Galleries, Mumbai
- 1996 National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai
- 1987 Coups de Coeur, Halles de L'Ile, Geneva
- 1986 Dhoomimal Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 1985 East-West Visual Arts Encounter, Bombay
- 1982 *Modern Indian Paintings*, Hirschorn Museum & Sculpture Garden Washington D.C.
India: Myth and Reality, Museum of Modern Art, Oxford, UK
Contemporary Indian Art, Royal Academy, London
- 1977 *Commonwealth Artists of Fame*, London
- 1972 Minneapolis International Art Festival, USA
- 1968 Tate Gallery, London
- 1967 Guggenheim Foundation USA
- 1965 *Art Now in India*, Arts Council of Great Britain, London
- 1964 Grosvenor Gallery, 1964

1962 Commonwealth Institute, London
1961 Museum of Modern Art, Sao Paulo/Rio de Janeiro
1958 Guggenheim Museum, USA
Whitechapel Art Gallery, London
1957 John Moore's Exhibition, Walker Art Gallery Liverpool
1956,57,59,60 Gallery One, London
1954 Venice Biennale Italy
Institute of Contemporary Arts, London
1949 Bombay Art Society Salon, Mumbai
1948 Progressive Artists' Group, inaugural exhibition

Awards

Italian Government Scholarship (through the British Council)
1967 Guggenheim International Award, New York
1957 John Moores Prize, Liverpool

Public Collections

Baroda Museum, Baroda
Birmingham Museum of Art, UK
British Museum, London, UK
CIMA – Centre International Modern Art, Calcutta
Delhi Art Gallery, New Delhi
Glenbarra Museum, Himeji, Japan
Haifa Musuem, Israel
The Hepworth Wakefield Art Gallery, UK
Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, New Delhi
The MBA- Museum of Biblical Art (Dallas), Texas USA
National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai
National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi
National Gallery of Victoria, Australia
Tate, London, UK
Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK