



Artist U. S. Gaitonde



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An introduction to the most valuable modern Indian artist at auction, a reclusive thinker and philosopher who largely eschewed material needs.

Vassudeo Santu Gaitonde, more commonly known as V.S Gaitonde.

He was born in 1924 in Nagpur (Maharashtra)

He was regarded as one of India's foremost abstract painters.

He passed his diploma in 1948 at Sir J. J. School of Art.

He was invited to join the influential Bombay Progressive Artists' Group. He received Padma Shri Award in 1971

Vassudeo Santu Gaitonde was invited to join the progressive artist group of Bombay in 1948 by impressed his work. This artist group was made by some artist like Francis Newton Souza and S. H. Raza and M.K. Husain.

Gaitonde participated actively in this group activities. He had several exhibitions held in India as well as in foreign countries.

Gaitonde participated in The Indian art exhibition in 1956. Which was held in many countries like Eastern and European countries.

Gaitonde also participated in other group exhibitions held at the Graham Art Gallery in New York in 1956 and 1963

He worked in Nizamuddin East area of Delhi and

He was the first contemporary Indian artist whose work was sold for Rs. a million at the 2005 Sotheby's art auction in Mumbai.

In October 2014, the first retrospective of his work took place at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York, titled 'V.S. Gaitonde: Painting as Process, Painting as Life'. Gaitonde is one of India's most famous and evocative artists, who has established his eminent presence and impressed his sublime vision into the canons of contemporary Indian art. With a broad awareness to back away from the past, Gaitonde from a manner oppressively weighed down by colonial

academism and clichéd Indianess to pave the way for an international idiom.

He played a vital role in establishing the foundations of abstractions in India.

It can be said that Gaitonde is an artist who was indeed ahead of time who entered into the mode of abstractions.

The breakdown of representation seen in his use of symbols, calligraphic elements and hieroglyphs served as a bridge into Gaitonde's later fully abstracted paintings as his concurrent study of Zen Buddhism began to influence his thought processes and his art.

Influenced by Zen philosophy and ancient calligraphy, his work is an inherent structure and control on the midst of their stream of consciousness composition.

His mysterious and personalization hieroglyphs are the manifestations of intuitions invested in the eternal and meaningful silence, seeking to open up the space.

His works a spiritual sublimation was created and translucent plants created an underwater ambience. The reclusive master experimented with form and shape in his work evoking subliminal depths in his works. Gaitonde unlike his more prolific contemporaries, he produced very few finished works during his lifetime preferring instead slow and meticulous painting processes. Gaitonde's technique of meticulously applying and then removing paint with a palette knife allows him to control his canvas to a startling exactitude. His characteristic feature is his lack of ground line and use of symbolic elements to build his lyrical composition.

Gaitonde has a brilliant technique to transfer basic elements to platforms from spiritual introspections. The textural interplay of colour in his paintings are the central device that conduits into motion, the mysterious self of the painting, it is hieratic but implicit, it is never insistent. Gaitonde has a composition possessed a kinetic power that imparts movement to the delicately balanced configuration

because Gaitonde governed their formulation with a feeling for the form that was imperative. Gaitonde's non-conformist nature was accompanied by a firm belief in his identity as an artist and because of his firmness, he isolated himself very early in his career from everything in his environment which he considered irrelevant to his identity as an artist. Gaitonde's growth over the years is marked by an increasing inwardness and a meticulous and watchful consolidation of this identity.

Gaitonde used excessive form and shape in his creation. Like shadow of Vasudev and various paintings, there is a brief and unambiguous description of the real world, although Gaitonde did not care for himself being labeled as abstract. There was a profound effect on Vasudev's Zen philosophy and ancient calligraphy. Between his art work, the control and the composite structure can be seen to be subtly illustrated. Gaitonde liked a slow and subtle painting process in contrast to his contemporaries, due to which he presented only a few complete works. Gaitonde's symbolic elements and very little use of baseline showed their work as a flowing river. Gaitonde's works remind us of Paul Cézanne and Joan Miro, whom he studied with during his college days....that red painting, it's like exposed blood, and bones, and tissue....There is an element of passion somewhere... 'The captivating scenes of Gaitonde fascinated the viewer for praising his remarkable achievement, and many of the people were impressed by the intensity of images. They were unlimited in their vast understanding and compulsive sentiment.

V.S. Gaitonde was doubtless one of India's most serious and thought-provoking artists who established his famous presence and influenced his divine vision in contemporary Indian art theory.

Gaitonde is? A quiet man and a painter of the quiet reaches of the imagination" as one of his friends once called Gaitonde, defines him best, who has the appearance of an intellectual, literally simmering with some unexplored ideas. Conceptually, Gaitonde never considered himself an abstract painter and is averse to be called one. In fact Gaitonde asserts that there is no such thing as abstract painting, instead he refers to his work as "non-objective" a kind of personalised hieroglyphics and calligraphic inventions, evoking the surface painted on with the most astounding intuitions, which Gaitonde has realised in his inevitable meeting, in discovering Zen. The meditative Zen quality that transpires his speech, emoting silence is exemplified in Gaitonde's work best, as silence is eternal and meaningful in itself, from this point one does tend to identify the mysterious motifs, the highly personalised hieroglyphs in Gaitonde's canvases with the manifestation of intuitions, invested in their Gaitonde's work is influenced by Zen philosophy and ancient calligraphy.

Vasudeo Santu Gaitonde was the first Indian contemporary painter whose work was sold for 9 million (US\$130,000) at a 2005 Osians art auction in Mumbai. In 2013, one of his untitled paintings sold for 237 million (US\$3.3 million), this painting set a record for an Indian artist at Christie's debut auction in India. After the media reports of the auction interest in Gaitonde's work has grown, even at his birthplace Nagpur, where Gaitonde's painting till then lying at warehouse of Central Museum, Nagpur was sent for restoration. It was put on public display in January 2014.

In October 2014, the first retrospective of Gaitonde's work took place at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York, titled V. S. Gaitonde: Painting as Process, Painting as Life. Vasudeo Santu Gaitonde's painting untitled sold at Taj Mahal palace hotel in Mumbai on Tuesday displayed at the Christies in India.

In Mumbai 16 December V.S. Gaitonde oil painting has sold for Rs 29.3 crore. This painting was made in 1995.

In Christie's auction last evening this painting was bought by an anonymous buyer.

In 1996 before he moved to Delhi, this painting was one of the last completed in Gaitonde's small barsati terrace studio in Nizamuddin.

Christie's international head of world William Robin said that this painting achieved world record for any Indian work of art sold at an auction.

V.S. Gaitonde considered one of India's greatest abstract painters. Gaitonde born in Nagpur and passed away in 2001.

This painting is the third sale of Christies and Indian art in India. An official of the auction house, told journalists the buyer was a person from abroad who is not of India origin and had bid over the phone.

Although Gaitonde, known as Gai among his friends, and he was the part of avant-garde group of his time such as the progressive artist's group and the part of Bombay group of the 1950s. He stood out as a modernist painter of outstanding integrity.

V.S. Gaitonde known best for his signature canvases and for the non-representational mode which he called a non-objective style and which can be traced to his life-long interest in Zen Buddhism and ancient calligraphy. This was the direct contrast with his earlier figurative mixed medium composition.

Gaitonde was an aficionado of western poetry, cinema literature and classical music, according to an intellectual considered.

Gaitonde's works were sold in millions at a 2005 Osians art auction in Mumbai such as the first Indian contemporary painter.

In 2013 one of Indian artist Gaitonde's untitled paintings sold for 3.5 million Rs 23.3 cr at current exchanged rates. It made a record for an Indian artist at Christie's debut auction in India.