

## 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 in 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              *Divya*, Sakshi Gallery, Mumbai  
*Talking Heads*, Art Alive Gallery, New Delhi

2013              *Past Parallels*, Aicon Gallery, New York, USA

2012              *Iconic Processions: Sacred Stones to Modern Masterpieces*, Aicon Gallery, New York, USA

2012              *Extending the Line*, Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi

- 2012 *Migrations*, Tate Britain, London
- 2012 *F.N.Souza: Landsapes, Heads and Nudes*, Grosvenor Gallery, London
- 2012 *Contemporary: A Selection of Modern and Contemporary Art*, presented by Sakshi Gallery at The Park, Chennai
- 2012 *Through the Ages: South Asian Sculpture and Painting from Antiquity to Modernism*, Aicon Gallery, New York
- 2012 *Crossings: Time Unfolded, Part 2*, Kiran Nadar Museum of Art (KNMA), New Delhi
- 2011-12 *The Body Unbound*, Rubin Museum of Art, New York
- 2011-12 *Picasso Souza*, Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 2011 *Ethos V: Indian Art Through the Lens of History (1900 to 1980)*, Indigo Blue Art, Singapore
- 2011 *The Path of the Lotus: Indian Art*, Grosvenor Gallery, London
- 2011 *Modern Masters*, Aicon Gallery, New York
- 2011 *Ida Kar: Portraits of F N Souza*, British Council, New Delhi; Grosvenor Vadehra, London; Pundole Art Gallery, Mumbai; Sunaparanta Goa Centre, Panjim
- 2011 *Manifestations VI*, Delhi Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 2011 *Seduction by Masquerade*, Nature Morte, New Delhi
- 2011 *States of Departure: Progressives to Present Day*, Aicon Gallery, London
- 2011 *POP: Progressives on Paper*, Aicon Gallery, New York
- 2011 *Anecdotes*, Sakshi Gallery, Mumbai
- 2011 *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
- 0 – 2011 *Figure/Landscape: Part Two*, Aicon Gallery, London
- 2010 *Figure/Landscape: Part One*, Aicon Gallery, New York

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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

- 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
- 2005-6 *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  
Manifestations, Delhi Art Gallery
- 2002 *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  
 1966 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

- 1998 Kalidas Sanman, Government of Madhya Pradesh, India  
 1967 Guggenheim International Award, New York  
 1960 Italian Government Scholarship (through the British Council)  
 1957 John Moores Prize, Liverpool