

India Rising

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F. N. Souza's "Pope and Pilate" (1956), from the inaugural show at Aicon's new Manhattan gallery

NEW YORK—As the market for modern and contemporary Indian and Pakistani art continues to grow, so do its most prominent dealers. This month the New York gallery **Aicon** moves from its fifth-floor, 2,500-square-foot space in the Flatiron district to an 8,500-square-foot location on Great Jones Street, near the **New Museum of Contemporary Art**.

“The market has been skyrocketing since 2005,” says **Priyanka Mathew**, the director of the gallery, which also has branches in London and Palo Alto, California. “It was unusual to find a contemporary Indian work for over \$15,000 before. Now it’s common

to find works at auction above \$100,000, and some artists, such as **Subodh Gupta**, are selling for over \$1 million.”

Around two-thirds of the new space will be used for exhibitions. The inaugural show, “The Ghost of Souza,” on view from September 18 through October 17, showcases new paintings, sculpture, photography and videos by about 15 artists, such as **Riyas Komu** and **T. V. Santhosh**, who have reinterpreted works by the Indian modern master **F. N. Souza**.

“Interest [in Indian art] is more intense in Europe right now,” says Mathew. “We’re hoping the launch of this gallery will move the process along in America.”

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