

ART BY NUMBERS

A weekly analysis of the Indian and global art market

Little wonder: Smaller artworks see more demand at auctions

₹338.5cr

The sum realized from the sale of 2,428 'extra small' works between 2016 and 2018. Such works—measuring below 599 sq. inches—have been seeing an increase in

turnover, as per an Artery India analysis. The highest turnover was in 2018 when ₹123.8 crore was realized from 739 pieces—the lowest work count in the period under consideration. For context, 947 works sold for ₹107.04 crore in 2017, and 742 works went under the hammer for ₹107.7 crore in 2016. The top three positions by turnover in the category were held by two pre-modern artists—Amrita Sher-Gil and Raja Ravi Varma. Sher Gil's *The Little Girl In Blue*, which sold for ₹18.6 crore at a Sotheby's Mumbai sale in 2018, was the most expensive extra small work for the three years under review. The most expensive work in 2017 was Ravi Varma's *Damayanti*, which was sold by Sotheby's for ₹11.06 crore. According to the Artery India Repeat Sales Index, this was the second time that this work was being sold in public domain, having realized ₹9.49 lakh in 1996. Sher-Gil, meanwhile, held the top spot in the extra small category—for an untitled oil-on-board that sold for ₹4.7 crore—in 2016 as well.

—Arvind Vijaymohan, CEO, Artery India, an art intelligence and sales advisory firm



At ₹18.6 crore, Amrita Sher-Gil's *The Little Girl in Blue* is the most expensive work in the category.