

ART BY NUMBERS

A weekly analysis of the Indian and global art market

2014-18 turned out to be a golden period for Pre-Modernist works

₹309 cr

The earnings realized from the sale of 819 works between 2014-18, as against ₹98.1 crore realized from the sale of 587 works over the preceding five years, according to an Artery India report that

reviews the market performance of the Pre-Modernists (artists born before 1915). The report claims there has been positive movement over these five years, compared to the previous five (2009-2013). There are a total of 79 artists in this category who are tracked within the Artery India Price Databank. The most expensive work during 2014-18 was 'Radha in the Moonlight' by Raja Ravi Varma (sold in 2016 for ₹23 crore by Pundole's). The second and third spots were held by Amrita Sher-Gil, for works sold in 2015 and 2018 (both by Sotheby's, at ₹18.2 crore and ₹18.6 crore, respectively). Sher-Gil, however, retained the spot of the top Pre-Modernist artist between 2014-18, with 29 of her works being sold for ₹106.2 crore over these five years. Ravi Varma was second with nine of his works realizing ₹56.1 crore. He was followed by Jamini Roy, a perennial constant, whose popularity can be gauged by the number of works sold—₹28.7 crore from 254 works—a count that placed him as the artist with the highest number of works sold in this category over the five years.

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



'Radha in the Moonlight' by Raja Ravi Varma.