

ART BY NUMBERS

A weekly analysis of the Indian and global art market

Finding life, the universe and everything in Jehangir Sabavala's works

₹71.3 cr

The amount fetched from the sale of 56 works by Jehangir Sabavala between 2014 and 2018, as per a recently released Artery India report.

Sabavala, over the course of six decades,

focused primarily on the magnificence and scale of the universe in his works. A pensive painter, his preoccupation was not with creating beautiful imagery (though that would usually be a perfect description of his creations), but contemplating upon and reflecting nature. His works would often present human figures, as well as inanimate objects in context with nature. The most popular material during this timeline was canvas, with 36 such works raising 91.3 % of the turnover (₹65.1 crore). For his canvases, Sabavala preferred oil as a medium with the usage of varying levels of rich impasto, typically rendering his subject in the cubist style. Ranked number 11 on Artery India Top 50 Artists (based on turnover from sales), Sabavala's strongest year was 2015, when 16 of his works sold for ₹19.3 crore. Sabavala's palette remained, for the larger part of his career, soft and mild. He was a master at creating illusions just through light, colour and texture. His most expensive work in this time, though, was a brighter-than-usual canvas, 'The Casuarina Line II'. This 2002 work sold for ₹4.82 crore in December 2015 at Christie's Mumbai auction.



'The Casuarina Line II' was Sabavala's most expensive work between 2014 and 2018.