

ART BY NUMBERS

A weekly analysis of the Indian and global art market

More sculptures are now being sold at auctions—but for lower sums

₹55.7 cr

That sculptures as a medium have lagged behind works on canvas in terms of sales is rather well known, but by exactly how much?

According to an Artery India report, the turnover from the medium was ₹55.7 crore between 2014 and 2018. During this time,

works on canvas fetched a significantly higher total —₹2,178.1 crore. In fact, even works on paper fared far better with a turnover of ₹274.8 crore. To some extent, this poor performance can be explained by the number of items offered for sale during these five years. A total of 251 sculptures were sold between 2014-18 against 3,377 works on canvas. Sculptures have been gaining in terms of visibility, with a number of the exponents being featured on a regular basis in sales annually. But, has the market recorded an upward curve over the past 10 years? It has, but there's a catch. The total achieved from 2014-18, ₹55.7 crore, has been from a significantly higher number of works (251) against ₹47.2 crore from 176 objects in (2009-13). The most expensive sculpture to be sold in the past five years was *Devi*—a monumental fibreglass work by G. Ravinder Reddy—that achieved ₹2.7 crore in 2015. The top sculptor by turnover during these years was Subodh Gupta, with 14 sculptural works selling for ₹10.5 crore. The oldest work to be sold during this timeline was 1949's *Entwined Figures* by Adi Davierwalla that realized ₹70 lakh in 2018.



Entwined Figures by
Adi Davierwalla

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