



Maqbool Fida Husain (M.F. Husain)

Born: September 17, 1915, Pandharpur, Maharashtra, India

Died: June 9, 2011, London, UK

Nationality: Indian (acquired Qatari citizenship in 2010)

Profession: Painter, Filmmaker, Draughtsman

Education

Self-taught; briefly attended Sir J.J. School of Art, Mumbai (1930s)

Professional Affiliations

Founding member of the Bombay Progressive Artists' Group (1947)

Artistic Mediums

- Oil on canvas
- Acrylic, watercolor, gouache
- Charcoal, pencil, ink drawing
- Serigraphs, lithographs
- Film and photography

Artistic Styles

- Modern Indian Art
- Modified Cubism
- Expressionism
- Narrative figuration
- Calligraphic and symbolic imagery
- Themes from mythology, history, and socio-political issues

Awards & Honors

- Padma Shri – Government of India (1966)
- Padma Bhushan – Government of India (1973)

- Golden Bear for Short Film – Berlin International Film Festival (1967)
- Padma Vibhushan – Government of India (1991)
- Honorary Doctorates – BHU, Jamia Millia Islamia, University of Mysore (2007)

Solo Exhibitions (Selected)

- 2019 – 'Lines of Thought', Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 2014 – 'Master of Modern Indian Painting', Victoria and Albert Museum, London
- 2011 – 'Horses of the Sun', Mathaf Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha
- 2008 – 'Indian Civilization Series', V&A Museum, UK
- 1993 – '50 Years of Painting', NGMA, Mumbai
- 1978 – Retrospective, Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi
- 1952 – First international solo in Zurich

Group Exhibitions (Selected)

- 1948–1960s – Bombay Progressive Artists' Group annual exhibitions
- 1959–1960 – São Paulo Biennale
- 1971 – Contemporary Indian Art, Royal Academy, London
- 1982 – Festival of India, London and USA
- 1997 – Invited to Documenta 11
- 2024 – Frieze Masters, Art Mumbai (posthumous shows)

Collections (Selected)

- National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), New Delhi & Bangalore
- Victoria and Albert Museum, London
- Peabody Essex Museum, Massachusetts
- Mathaf Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha
- Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad
- Private collections worldwide

Filmography

- 1967 – 'Through the Eyes of a Painter' (Golden Bear, Berlin)
- 2000 – 'Gaja Gamini' (feature film starring Madhuri Dixit)
- 2004 – 'Meenaxi: A Tale of Three Cities'

Later Life & Legacy

Faced controversy over religious depictions; self-exiled from India in 2006.

Accepted Qatari citizenship in 2010.

Died in London in 2011 and was buried in Brookwood Cemetery, Surrey, UK.

Revered as one of the most influential modern Indian painters.