

FRANCIS NEWTON SOUZA A Life in Line

1920s

1924

- Victor Newton is born in Saligaon, Goa, on 12 April. Begins to use the family name 'Souza' in 1942

1925

- Moves to Bombay with his mother, Lily Mary
- Souza contracts small pox and becomes seriously ill. He bears the scars for the rest of his life

1930s

1935

- Enrolled in a Jesuit school, St Xavier's High School in Bombay

1939

- Expelled from school by the principal for truanting and pornographic drawings

1940s

1940

- Joins Sir JJ School of Art in Bombay (age 16)

1942

- Submits works for the Bombay Art Society Annual Exhibition consecutively till 1946. Rejected every year

1945

- Expelled from Sir JJ School of Art for his involvement with the Indian independence movement



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F N Souza, *Beggars in Bombay*, Mixed media on paper, 1945

1947

- Participated in the Bombay Art Society Annual Exhibition. All his works are accepted and he is awarded a prize
- Initiates the Progressive Artists' Group with Raza and Ara, followed by Gade, Bakre and Husain (later joined by Padamsee, Khanna, Mehta and Gaitonde)



F N Souza, Akbar Padamsee and S H Raza, three of the members of the Progressive Artists' Group

- Joins the Communist Party
- Marries Maria Figueiredo (they have a child Shelly Souza)

1948

- First solo exhibition at the Bombay Art Society Salon

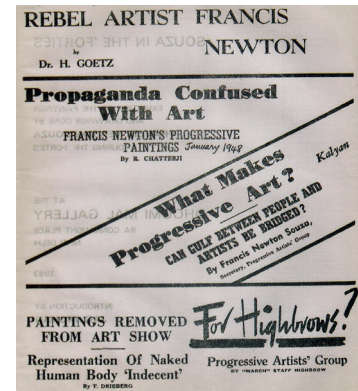


Image courtesy of Dhoomimal Gallery

Cover of *Marg* (Vol. 3 No. 3), which contained Dr. Hermann Goetz's article "The Rebel Artist: Francis Newton" about Souza's one man show at the Bombay Art Society Salon

- Represented in the *Exhibition of Indian Art* at Burlington House, London, now the Royal Academy

1949

- First exhibition of Progressive Artists' Group in Bombay, inaugurated by Dr. Mulk Raj Anand
- Leaves for London on 22 July

1950s

1950

- Meets Mr. V K Krishna Menon, the Indian High Commissioner in London. Souza is commissioned to paint a series of large murals for the Indian Students Bureau

1951

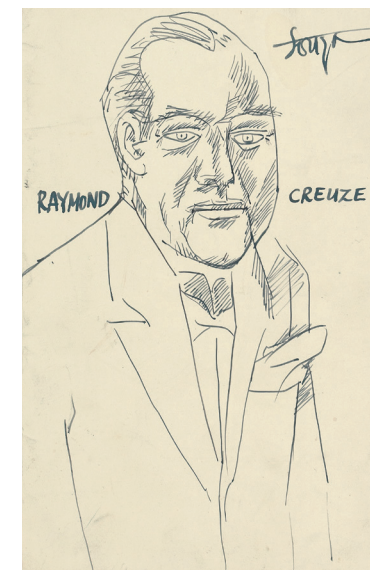
- Menon organises an exhibition of Souza's paintings at India House, London

1952

- Given a grant to study and paint in Paris. Meets up with some members of the Progressives and exhibits in a mixed show at Galerie St. Placide in Paris

1953

- Exhibits in Galerie Raymond Creuze, Paris; at Galerie Pallette, Zurich; and in Rome in an exhibition organised by ISMEO



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F N Souza, *Portrait of Raymond Creuze*, circa 1953

1954

- Solo exhibition at Galerie Raymond Creuze, Paris
- Returns to London
- Meets the poet, critic and editor of *Encounter* magazine Stephen Spender
- Meets Liselotte Kristian (they have three children together: Karen, Francesca and Anya)

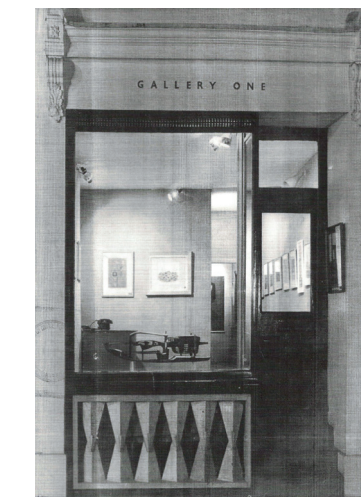


F N Souza, Francesca Souza and Karen Souza Kohn on Hampstead Heath, London. Image courtesy of Francesca Souza

- Exhibits in the Venice Biennale

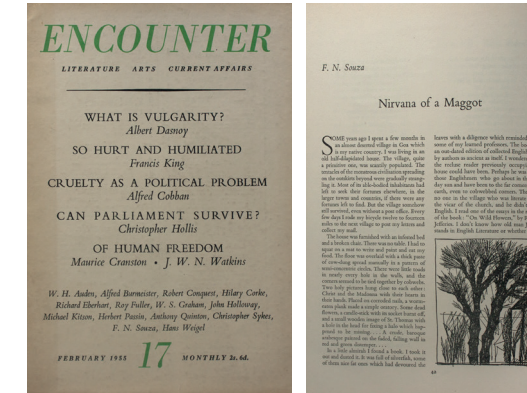
1955

- First solo exhibition at Gallery One, London. Organised by Victor Musgrave



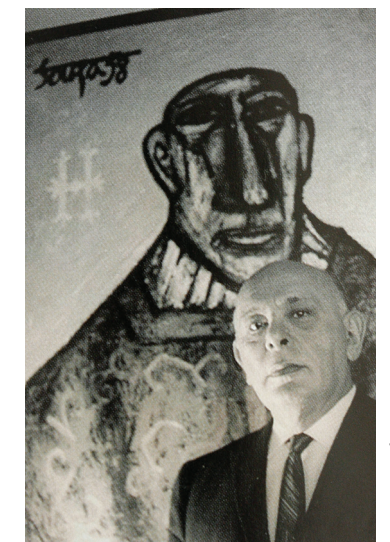
Entrance of Gallery One, London

- "Nirvana of a Maggot", first autobiographical essay published by Stephen Spender in *Encounter* magazine



1956

- Second solo exhibition at Gallery One, London
- Souza meets Harold Kovner in Paris; Kovner becomes the main patron of Souza for the next four years providing a monthly allowance in return for his paintings

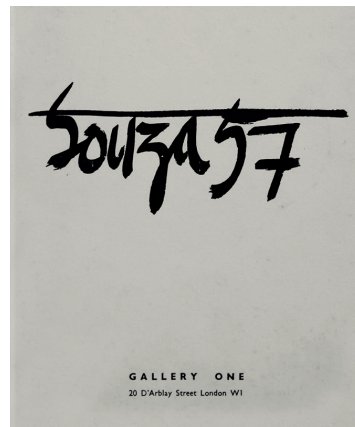


Harold Kovner next to his portrait by Souza.

1957

- Wins a prize in Junior Section of John Moore Liverpool Exhibition; *Portrait of an Indian Philosopher*

- Third solo exhibition at Gallery One, London



1958

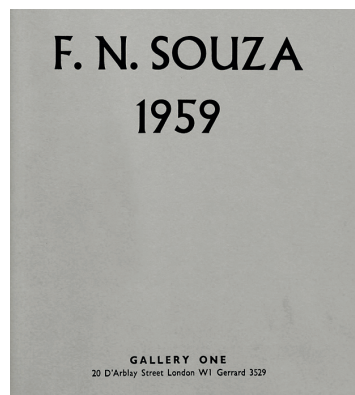
- One of the five artists nominated to represent Great Britain for the Guggenheim International Award



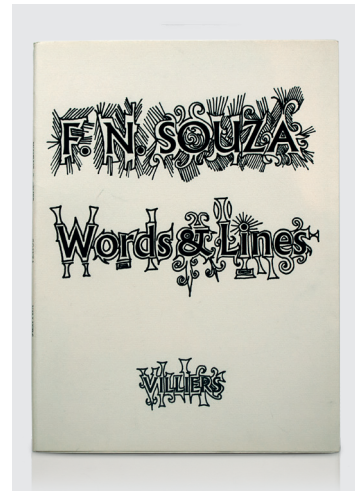
"The Guggenheim Art Award", an article in *The Times*, 31 March 1958

1959

- Fourth solo exhibition at Gallery One, London



- *Words and Lines* by Souza is published by Villier Publications; First fifty copies are numbered and signed by the artist



1960s

1960

- Goes to Italy on an Italian Government Scholarship

1961

- Sixth solo exhibition at Gallery One, London



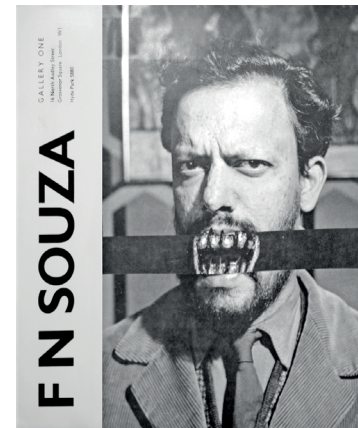
"Goan Artist's Success", an article in *The Times* on F. N. Souza's 1961 solo exhibition at Gallery One, 2 December 1961

1962

- *Souza* by Edwin Mullins is published by Anthony Blond, London



- Last solo exhibition at Gallery One, London



- Moves to Grosvenor Gallery
- Exhibits at the opening of the Commonwealth Institute, opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II (below)



- Solo Exhibition at Kumar Gallery, New Delhi

1963

- Solo exhibition at Taj Art Gallery, Bombay; first exhibition in the city in 15 years

1964

- *The Human and the Divine Predicament*, exhibition at the Grosvenor Gallery

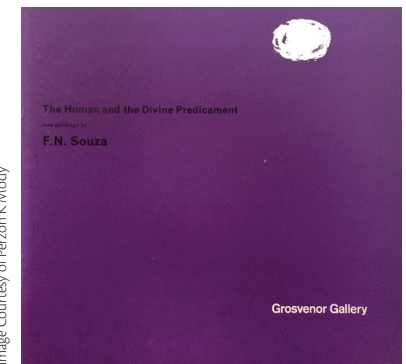
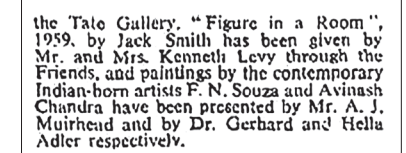


Image Courtesy of Perzom K. Moody

1965

- *Indian Painting* now begins, travelling exhibition by Arts Council
- Begins *Souza Kalam* with Mohan Sharma; a project looking at the revival of Indian miniature paintings in the Souza idiom
- Tate Modern acquires *Two Saints in a Landscape* by Souza



"Tate's Recent Purchases on View", an article in *The Times*, 18 June 1965

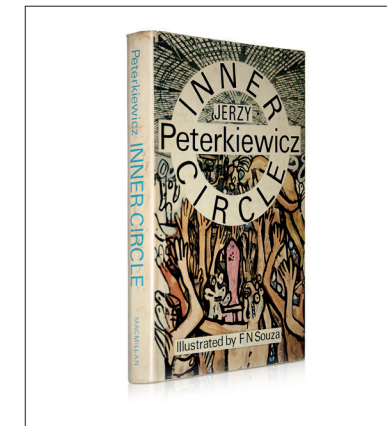
- Paints series *Black on Black*, exhibited by Grosvenor Gallery



- Marries Barbara Zinkant (they have one child together Patrick)

1966

- Cover illustration for the novel *Inner Circle* by Jerzy Peterkiewicz



1967

- Emigrates to the United States of America

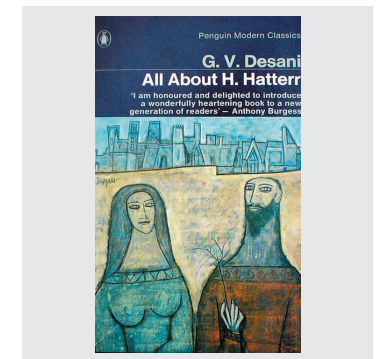
1968

- Solo exhibition at the London Arts Gallery in Detroit

1970s

1972

- Souza's *Two Saints in a Landscape* features on the front cover of *All About H. Hatter* published by Penguin Modern Classics



1974

- Exhibition of drawings at Davis Ellis-Jones Gallery in London. Show reviewed in *Art Review* by Max Wykes-Joyce

1975

- Solo exhibition at Dhoomimal Gallery

1976

- Solo exhibition at Dhoomimal Gallery



Mrs. Gandhi admiring Souza's work at his exhibition in 1976

- Exhibition at Arts 38, London

1977

- Souza's works included in the *Commonwealth Artists of Fame 1952-1977* exhibition at the Commonwealth Institute, London

1980s

1982

- *Festival of India in Britain* is launched. Souza works are showcased in a two-part exhibition of Contemporary Indian Art which takes place in Diploma Galleries of the Royal Academy selected by the Indian art critic Geeta Kapur and in *India: Myth and Reality* at the Museum of Modern Art, Oxford
- Works selected for the group exhibition *Modern Indian Paintings* in Hirshhorn Museum & Sculpture Garden, Washington DC

1983

- *Souza in the Forties*, solo exhibition at Dhoomimal Gallery

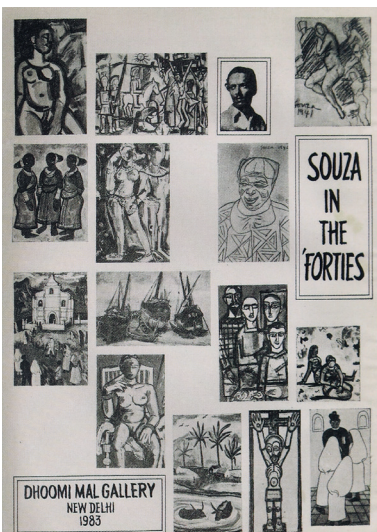


Image courtesy of Dhoomimal Art Gallery

1984

- Exhibition Arts 38, London

1985

- Solo show at Dhoomimal Gallery

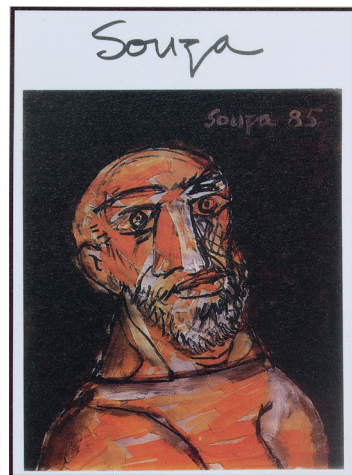


Image courtesy of Dhoomimal Gallery

- Exhibition of six paintings in Bombay titled *The East-West Encounter* banned for being 'too explicit'. Two of these paintings were subsequently purchased by the National Gallery of Modern Art in New Delhi

1986

- Exhibition *Dhoomimal Gallery Retrospective*, Art Heritage, New Delhi

1987

- Group exhibition at Coups de Coeur, Geneva

1988

- Show held at Indus Gallery, Karachi

1989

- Exhibits at group show, *The Other Story*, organised by Rasheed Araeen at Hayward Gallery, London



1990s

1993

- *Souza, 1940's-1990's*, solo exhibition at Dhoomimal Gallery

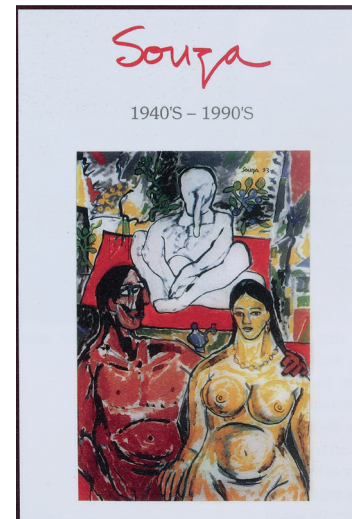


Image courtesy of Dhoomimal Gallery

- Tate Modern acquires *Crucifixion* by Souza

1994

- Solo exhibition at Indus Gallery, Karachi
- Solo exhibition at Dhoomimal Gallery, New Delhi

1995

- Solo exhibition *The Chemicals of Souza* at LTG Gallery, New Delhi

1996

- Solo exhibition *Souza* from the Alkazi Collection at the Academy of Fine Arts and Literature, New Delhi
- Selected works in group exhibition, *The Modern Inaugural Show*, at the National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai

1997

- Solo exhibition at Julian Hartnoll Gallery, London



Invitation to the exhibition at Julian Hartnoll, London

1998

- Awarded the Kalidas Sanman, Government of Madhya Pradesh, India
- Solo exhibition at Bose Pacia Modern Gallery, New York

1999

- Solo exhibition *Souza: Latest Works* at Copeland Fine Art Gallery, Columbus, Ohio
- *Retrospective I, F.N. Souza 1950-1999*, solo exhibition at Kumar Gallery, New Delhi

2000s

2000

- Second edition of *Words and Lines* published
- *Retrospective II, F N Souza 1945-2000*, solo exhibition at Kumar Gallery, New Delhi

2001

- *Retrospective III, F.N. Souza Important Paintings from Fifties and Sixties*, solo exhibition at Kumar Gallery, New Delhi
- *Francis Newton Souza Rare Works:*

1965-2001 solo exhibition at Galerie 88, Kolkata

- *Indian Contemporary Fine Art*, with Saffronart and Apparao Galleries in Los Angeles where F N Souza and Baiju Parthan were on a work live programme



2002

- Souza passes away on 28 March in Mumbai

SELECTED POSTHUMOUS EXHIBITIONS

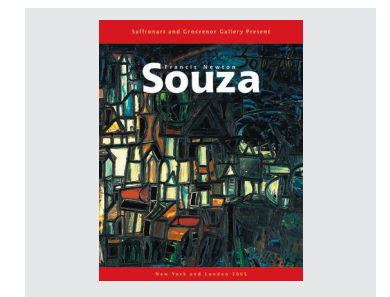
2002

- *Souza and Friends* at Grosvenor Gallery, London



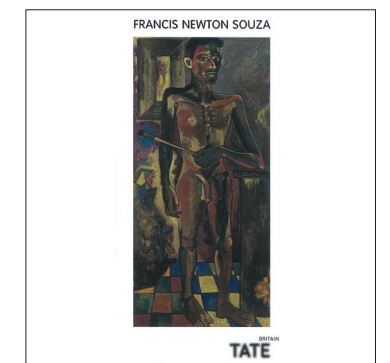
2005

- *Francis Newton Souza* at Saffronart and Grosvenor Gallery, London and New York



2005/6

- Selected works in *Self-Portrait: Renaissance to Contemporary* at the National Portrait Gallery, London
- *F. N. Souza: Religion and Erotica* at the Tate Britain, London



Cover of the brochure of Souza's exhibition at Tate Britain

2008

- Selected works in *Multiple Modernities: India, 1905-2005* at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, USA
- *F. N. Souza*, presented by Saffronart and Grosvenor Gallery, London at Saffronart, New York

