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READY FOR THE SHOW?

India summit to give Hirst's fans art attack

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NEWDELHI: The bad-boy of the international art scene, Damien Hirst, may be the star of the third edition of the India Art Summit, to be held in Delhi in January.

Hirst, whose most famous work is a platinum human skull encrusted with 8,601 diamonds and with an asking price of \$100 million, is being discussed as a seminar participant at the Summit. In 2008, Hirst's show, *Beautiful Inside My Head Forever*, sold for a record \$198 million.

British-Indian artist Anish Kapoor is another name being discussed.

"While renowned Indian artists such as

Subodh Gupta, Jitish Kallat and Atul Dodiya will be there, internationally, we're looking at three big artists who Indians will be excited about," says Neha Kirpal, director of the summit.

The organisers have also petitioned the home ministry and Delhi government to ensure security arrangements for showcasing works by M.F. Husain. Last year, they faced flak from art lovers for not including Husain's works due to security concerns.

"We sent out letters to the authorities three months ago,"



■ A Damien Hirst-designed platinum skull (left) is valued at \$100 million. FILE PHOTO

says Kirpal.

The value of artworks on display is expected to be around a whopping Rs 100 crore. "Last year, there were works valued at an estimated Rs 50 crore. This year, we're looking at Rs 100 crore," she adds.

Of the 84 participating galleries, 34 are international, from 21 countries including Austria, Spain, Germany, UK and USA. A space of over 8,000 sq ft — double the area used last year has been booked at Pragati Maidan for the summit.

The summit, which was held in August in the past two years, will be held between January 21-23 this time, so that it's in sync with the international art fair calendar.