

For Immediate Release

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COUTURE TO PRET-A-PORTER: STUNNING VINTAGE FASHION AND ACCESSORIES AT CHRISTIE'S SOUTH KENSINGTON THIS JUNE 2007



A cherry red crocodile Birkin bag by Hermes (estimate: £7,000-10,000)



A pair of sunglasses designed by Oliver Goldsmith in the shape of a tennis racket (estimate: £250-350), a pair of wacky aeroplane sunglasses (estimate: £100-150) along with another example

20th Century Fashion and Accessories

Christie's South Kensington

7 June 2007

South Kensington – Exquisite couture gowns, classic tailored suits and handbags of all shapes and sizes are just a few of the fabulous items that form part of 350 lots that will be offered in the popular *20th Century Fashion and Accessories* sale on 7 June 2007. Sought-after pieces by celebrated early 20th century couture designers such as Madeleine Vionnet and Balenciaga will be offered alongside more contemporary examples by Chanel, Versace, Ossie Clark, Zandra Rhodes and Pucci. Handbags also feature strongly in the sale including examples by Hermes, Prada, Christian Dior, Celine and Chanel among others. Estimates start from as little as £100.

Madeleine Vionnet had an enduring influence on generations of designers, with her innovative biased cut and elegantly draped clothes, embracing both glamour and simplicity. The sale offers an example from her 1930s haute couture collections, a striking purple velvet bias cut circular skirt, 1938 (estimate: £1,000-1,500). Also noted for exquisite cutting are three outfits by Cristobal Balenciaga. A stylish evening swing jacket in black satin from the

mid 1960s (estimate: £600-1,000), a matador-style bolero in red velvet encrusted with black beads, early 1960s (estimate: £1,000-1,500) and a sugar pink wool coat, 1960s (estimate: £500-1,000).

The varied styles of the 1960s and 1970s can be clearly seen in the many outfits offered from this period. Ranging from Pucci's distinctive and colourful silk jersey and velvet dresses and two-piece ensembles from the 1960s (estimates from £400) to Ossie Clark's floating chiffon dresses in Celia Birtwell prints from the 1970s, including a pretty printed floral chiffon maxi dress with matching coat, 1970s (estimate: £1,500-2,000). In addition, is a selection of items by Zandra Rhodes from her 1970-73 collections, from a chiffon pleated dress in classic Lily in the Field print (estimate: £400-600) to a pleated satin Indian Feather print dress (estimate: £400-600). Further highlights include classic knitwear by Bill Gibb including a plaid suit with a maxi skirt from the early 1970s (estimate: £300-500).

Vivienne Westwood's distinctive and individual look can be seen from the range of outfits offered. Examples include a pair of caramel suede boots from her celebrated 1980s Pirate Collections (estimate: £300-500), a bondage shirt with red silk 'ello Joe' print, early 1980s (estimate: £400-600) together with a selection of punk t-shirts from her 'Seditionaries' Collection (estimates from: £200).

Each decade develops its own style and the 1980s and 1990s were no exception. Among the outfits offered for sale is a selection of striking Chanel suits with signature gold buttons from the 1980s and 1990s (estimates from £300 to £500) alongside a Versace red leather studded biker jacket, 1980s (estimate: £500-1,000). More contemporary pieces include a daring Versace black cocktail dress that was designed for a Playboy Magazine shoot, and was later won in a competition, 1990s (estimate: £300-500). Finally, fans of Kate Moss, a model synonymous with the 1990s, will have the opportunity to acquire a signed photograph of her taken by David Sims, when she was the face of Calvin Klein (estimate: £200-400).

Accessories

The sale offers the perfect opportunity to by-pass a very long waiting list to acquire the top lot of the sale, a striking cherry red crocodile Birkin bag by Hermes (estimate: £7,000-10,000). This is the first time that such an example has been offered, and is guaranteed to generate admiring glances. Other fashion house handbags also feature including models by Yves Saint Laurent, Todd, Gucci, Chloe, Celine, Dolce & Gabbana, Miu Miu, Ferragamo, Prada, Chanel, Christian Dior and Louis Vuitton among others.

Among the jewellery featured in the sale is a selection of Chanel over-sized earrings in the Baroque style from the 1980s and 1990s featuring hanging scent bottles and quilted handbags (estimates from £150) together with two chain snaffle bracelets by Hermes (estimate: £400-600 each). In addition, a decorative faux pearl and coral necklace with

matching earrings by Miriam Haskell (estimate: £300-500) is among a group of jewellery by the celebrated American jewellery designer.

Sunglasses that are guaranteed to turn heads this summer also feature. The selection, mainly from the 1950s and 1960s, includes a pair designed by Oliver Goldsmith in the shape of a tennis racket (estimate: £250-350), a pair of wacky aeroplane sunglasses (estimate: £100-150) along with other examples by Christian Dior and Valentino.

Christie's will hold a series of sales dedicated to *20th Century Fashion and Accessories* during 2007. These sales will be held on Thursday, 7 June 2007 and 21 November 2007, while on Wednesday 25 July 2007, Christie's will hold a Wardrobe Sale devoted to private collections. This sale will feature designer wardrobes to include Japanese designers of 1980s such as Yoji Yamamoto, Comme des Garçons and Issey Miyake, a 1990s Westwood Collection and dresses from an important Italian collector, alongside a 'forgotten treasure trove' of 1970s prêt-à-porter in original packaging.

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A selection of images is available on request

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Christie's South Kensington 2007

Christie's South Kensington is the place to inspire. During 2007 Christie's will host a range of Interior Sales held over a week dedicated to affordable home furnishing categories, together with monthly Sunday Sales of single-owner collections, with every lot beautifully illustrated in the large scale magazine-style catalogue.

The UK's busiest auction house, open 7 days a week, Christie's South Kensington offers more sales in more categories than any other auction house. Prices range from £200 to over £20,000, with the average price at just under £1,000. For those contemplating selling, Christie's expertise is also available 7 days a week, free of charge, at the Valuation Counter, to advise you on the current market value for your works of art.

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