

For Immediate Release

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FLASHBACK – FROM THE SUBLIME TO THE OUTRAGEOUS
From elegant Italian fashion and 1980s deconstructed Japanese designs
to highlights from London’s Punk heyday – just some of the items to be
offered at Christie’s South Kensington this July

20th Century Fashion: The Wardrobe Sale

Christie’s South Kensington

25 July 2007 at 10.30am



London – An auction devoted to private single-owner collections will be held at Christie’s South Kensington in the *20th Century Fashion: The Wardrobe Sale* on Wednesday, 25 July 2007. A ‘forgotten treasure trove’ of 1970s prêt-a-porter recently re-discovered in Australia is one of the highlights of the sale alongside a collection of 1980s and 1990s Westwood catwalk items collected by the late Daniel Douce, an architect, and iconic examples by Japanese designers of 1980s such as Yoji Yamamoto, Comme des Garçons and Issey Miyake from the wardrobe of Maxine Arakawa. In addition, the sale includes fabulous dresses and outfits from an important Italian collection as well as a group of Westwood and Boy punk t-shirts. Estimates start from as little as £150.

A recently re-discovered collection of ‘new’ 1970s prêt-a-porter still in its original packaging is one of the exciting private collections to be offered for sale, featuring unique pieces by top designers such as Missoni, Krizia, Versace, Pucci and Courreges. In the 1970s, a trade dispute resulted in a wholesaler, Mary Lipshut, having to lock away several collections in a warehouse in Australia, with the result that none of the items were ever offered for sale. There the clothes remained, untouched and forgotten for over thirty years until their recent re-discovery by Mary Lipshut. The hoard includes exceptional pieces from some of Gianni Versace’s earliest collections, designed soon after he had set up under his own label. These cutting-edge examples pre-figure his later brilliant use of sexy,



slinky fabrics. Other examples offered include a selection of Courreges olive green quilted ski outfits (estimates from £400) together with a lime green futuristic wet-look hooded coat (estimates: £800-1,000).

A superb private Italian collection with items from the 1960s through to the 1980s will also be offered. An emphasis on precision cutting in good fabrics form the nucleus of this collection designed by some of the most celebrated names of the period including Balenciaga, Jean Patou, Lanvin, Pucci, Roberta di Camerino and Gianfranco Ferre. Ranging from day to evening wear, with a strong emphasis on simple lines and exquisite cut, the collection includes a white Pierre Cardin dress with red beaded detail, 1970s (estimate £300-600), a Dior ivory sequinned sheath with blue sequinned princess skirts from the late 1970s (estimate: £500-800) as well as white hot-pants with matching thigh length boots with daisy applications by Courreges, 1970s (estimate: £600-1,000).

The strong jewelled colours for which Yves Saint Laurent is recognised can be seen in these 1980s examples from this designer that form part of this European collection. Both day and eveningwear feature including wonderful jewelled coloured suits by YSL from the 1980s, with estimates starting at £150 alongside draped chiffon evening dresses from the 1990s (estimates: £150-250 each) including cutting-edge Courreges and Pucci ensembles from the 1970s.

A further collection in the sale comprises a group of top Japanese designers. Collected by a top stylist, the wardrobe includes the crème de la crème of Japanese design, starting with Comme des Garçons. This label was started in Tokyo by Rei Kawakubo in 1969. Her first show in Paris in 1981 stood out from designs predominantly showing floral prints and New Romantic outfits in its use of black and often distressed fabrics, using asymmetric cuts, bias cutting and deconstructed forms. Comme des Garçons along with Yohji Yamamoto and Issey Miyake who are also represented in the collection challenged established notions fashion by emphasising, as in this collection, a paired down silhouette in plain colours both for day and eveningwear, paired with bold accessories and jewellery. An iconic futon coat by Issy Miyake (estimate: £1,000-1,500) is one of the top lots alongside a slinky diaphanous scarlet chiffon shift dress by Comme des Garçons' Rei Kawakuba (estimate: £400-600).



Daniel Douce was a design aficionado and a huge fan of Vivienne Westwood, attending her catwalk shows until his tragic early death. This collection features examples from Vivienne Westwood's 1980s and 1990s catwalk shows including her celebrated Boudoir Collection, as well as Anglomania tweeds and Boucher-inspired corsets and basques. In addition, the

collection includes men's shirts and accessories including a stylish knitted jumper with a crown motif (estimate: £400-600) from the 1980s.

Summers spent in London and a fascination for punk London's heady music scene lead to this International collector gathering this impressive group of twenty t-shirts. It includes both Westwood and McLaren as well as high street rebellion examples from Boy alongside x-rated pieces.

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