

CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | SOUTH KENSINGTON
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COUTURE CLASSICS FOR CHRISTMAS

CHRISTIE'S VINTAGE COUTURE & LUXURY HANDBAGS SALE OFFERS
STUNNING GOWNS, COCKTAIL DRESSES & HANDBAGS FIT FOR THE
FESTIVE PARTY SEASON



South Kensington, London - Christie's will offer a stunning selection of wearable gowns, cocktail dresses, coats, suits and handbags at the *Vintage Couture & Luxury Handbags* sale on 13 November 2013, fit for the festivities of the Christmas season. Those searching for the perfect party outfit or simply looking to update their winter wardrobes can feast their eyes on 174 lots, which will be on view from 9 November at Christie's South Kensington. The sale will feature special collections owned by influential fashion leaders, including King of vintage and founder of luxury boutique *Decades*, Cameron Silver; designer JOOP!; and modern muse, Lady Cecile Kemball-Cook. The auction will also feature ten Disney Princess-inspired dresses, created by leading designers as part of a collaboration between Harrods and Disney. They will be auctioned to raise money for Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity. Estimates for the *Vintage Couture & Luxury Handbags* sale range from £400 to £40,000.

Pat Frost, Director of Christie's Fashion Department commented: "Our Winter Vintage Couture sale is the biggest of the year and this one is set to provide the fashion conscious around the world with a wealth of striking creations from across the ages. In addition to classic designs, the sale features a large selection of wearable couture including a collection of 30 evening gowns and cocktail dresses by the crème de la crème of modern couture designers, perfect for the festive season. With a buoyant market for vintage items, this is a good time to be launching our exciting collaboration with Cameron Silver of *Decades*, the doyen of the vintage fashion world. From a classic Dior gown to edgy designs by Jean Paul Gaultier and Alexander McQueen, the sale offers inspiration for winter wardrobes."

TIMELESS CHIC THROUGH THE AGES – CAMERON SILVER AT DECADES



The *Vintage Couture & Luxury Handbags* sale will see the launch of a new collaboration with Cameron Silver of *Decades*, Los Angeles' illustrious vintage and haute couture consignment store. Known for their discerning eye, co-founders of *Decades*, Cameron Silver and Christos Garkinos' clientele is a veritable who's who of Hollywood's elite, which includes Julianne Moore, Selma Blair, Charlize Theron, among many others. Together Pat Frost, director of Christie's Fashion department and Cameron Silver, co-founder of *Decades* have selected 30 lots spanning the most iconic fashion eras, with designers from Yves Saint Laurent to Alexander McQueen. From the classic elegance of *Christian Dior's* 1952 'Palmyre' gown (estimate: £26,000 – 28,000, *illustrated right*) to the sassy charm of *Rudi Gernreich's* topless swimsuit of 1972 (estimate: £2,800 – 3,000, *illustrated left*), this selection represents some of the best designs from across the ages.



WEARABLE VINTAGE FROM A PRIVATE COLLECTION

The new category *Wearable Vintage* joins Christie's *Vintage Couture & Luxury Handbags* sale for the Christmas season, with a selection of delectable evening gowns from the wardrobe of a lady of impeccable taste. The collection features over 30 elegant pieces, including evening gowns, cocktail dresses, suits and jackets by top name designers, such as John Galliano for Christian Dior, Karl Lagerfeld for Chanel, Yves Saint Laurent and Hermès. A John Galliano for Christian Dior Nude Pink Grosgrain evening gown is estimated at £1,500 to 3,000 (*illustrated left*); a Karl Lagerfeld for Chanel black chiffon strapless gown is estimated at £1,000 – 2,000 (*illustrated centre*) and a Christian Dior gown of grey another suit are estimated at £1,000 – 2,000 (*illustrated right*).



LADY CECILE KEMBALL COOK'S WARDROBE – A TALE OF LOVE AND LOSS

Further highlights in the sale include a capsule wardrobe once belonging to Lady Cecile Kemball Cook. Born in 1893, the daughter of a Russian General, and widowed at a young age, she made her way across Europe socialising with the great and the good, in Paris and London. While in Paris she

became acquainted with Diagailev, founder of the Ballets Russes and the Baroness Pauline de Rothschild, who went on to

work for Schiaparelli. This may have been Cécile's

introduction to the designer. In 1939, on

holiday in Capri, she was recalled to England by a

telegram from her second husband, Sir Basil Kemball

Cook, a career civil servant and a member of

Lloyd George's team during the war. Told of

the imminent danger of war, she left Capri

immediately, leaving her luggage with Thomas Cook. Over a decade later, having been bombed out of Mayfair and widowed, her trunks containing her 1939 wardrobe and the lots in this *Vintage Couture & Luxury Handbags* sale were delivered by a Thomas Cook porter, leaving us with a tantalising glimpse into elegant society in 1939. (Pictured left: *Lady Cecile*

Kemball Cook; illustrated right: *A Schiaparelli tea gown and sleeveless bolero*,

1930s, estimated at £10,000 to 15,000; A Schiaparelli Opera Coat, 1936, estimated at £20,000 to 25,000; A Schiaparelli Sari Gown, 1938, estimated at £40,000 to 60,000).



ICONIC SCHIAPARELLI FOUND IN ANTIQUES MARKET



One of the top lots in the sale is a Schiaparelli black velvet evening jacket from 1939. Estimated at £40,000 to 45,000, this striking jacket by one of the world's most coveted designers was bought by the vendor's boyfriend in the 1970s from an antiques market on the Kings Road. Another example of the perfect evening outfit, it has been worn to parties ever since it was bought, but has survived in excellent condition.

The jacket is embroidered with mirror-work baroque panels to the front and trimmed with twisted gold foil embroidery and four black ceramic buttons in the form of Grecian classical heads. In November 2012, a jacket of identical design realised £73,250 at Christie's Vintage Couture sale.

DISNEY PRINCESS DRESSES

Ten exclusive Disney Princess-inspired dresses, stunningly handcrafted by world-leading designers including Oscar de la Renta, Versace and Elie Saab will be sold to raise money for Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity. The ten enchanting dresses were created as part of a collaboration between Harrods, one of the world's most famous department stores, and Disney. Each dress has been designed to be an individual interpretation of a Disney Princess – paying tribute to the stories of Ariel, Aurora (Sleeping Beauty), Belle, Cinderella, Jasmine, Mulan, Pocahontas, Rapunzel, Snow White and Tiana. The unique collection of dresses was first showcased in the ultra-glamorous Harrods Christmas 2012 window displays.



© Disney

LUXURY HANDBAGS

The auction also features a selection of luxury Hermès handbags and accessories, perfect to add a splash of colour to a winter outfit and complement an evening dress. Handbags include a Fuchsia Crocodile Birkin bag sold with a Fuchsia Alligator Collier de Chien bracelet, (estimate: £40,000 – 45,000, *the bag illustrated below left*); a bi-colour Black and Rouge H Crocodile Kelly bag from the 1960s (estimate: £6,000 – 8,000, *illustrated below centre*) and a Rose Lipstick Veau Togo Leather Birkin Bag (estimate: £10,000 – 12,000, *illustrated below right*).

Clare Borthwick, Specialist in Vintage Couture and Accessories at Christie's commented: *"The Hermès handbags in this Vintage Couture & Luxury Handbags sale are in pristine condition, showing the best of Hermès craftsmanship. Currently there is a trend towards brightly coloured bags as well as bi-colour and tri-colour designs and we expect a great deal of interest in these handbags during the sale. Hermès is an iconic brand and the classic designs of Birkin and Kelly bags will stand the test of time. They would be the perfect gift for those looking to brighten up a winter outfit."*



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Public Exhibition:

Saturday 9 November, 11am - 5pm
Sunday 10 November, 11am - 5pm
Monday, 11 November, 9am - 5pm
Tuesday 12 November, 9am - 7:30pm

Auction:

*Vintage Couture & Luxury Handbags, Including The
Disney Princess Dresses, Sold to Benefit Great Ormond
Street Hospital Children's Charity*
Wednesday, 13 November, 2013
2.00pm

For ongoing information on the sale, visit www.christies.com/fashion

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Christie's South Kensington

Open seven days a week, Christie's South Kensington is one of the busiest salerooms in the UK attracting over 200,000 visitors each year. With over 100 sales and offering more than 20,000 lots annually, estimates start from under £1,000. Interiors sales dedicated to home furnishings are held three times a month alongside regular Sunday sales of single-owner collections. Specialised sales for the avid collector are scheduled throughout the year according to category, and include Popular Culture Memorabilia, Vintage Couture, Islamic Art, Jewellery, 20th Century British Art and Chinese Works of Art, amongst others. In 2012 Christie's South Kensington realised the highest ever total for the third consecutive year with sales of £139.4 million / \$223.1 million having welcomed a 10% growth in registered bidders and a 20% increase (£ / \$) in total sales.

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in the first half of 2013 that totaled £2.4 billion/ \$3.68 billion. In 2012, Christie's had global auction and private sales that totaled £3.92 billion/\$6.27 billion making it the highest annual total in Christie's history. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie's has since conducted the greatest and most celebrated auctions through the centuries providing a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 450 auctions annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$100 million. Christie's also has a long and successful history conducting private sales for its clients in all categories, with emphasis on Post-War and Contemporary, Impressionist and Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery. Private sales totaled £465.2 million (\$711.8 million) in the first half of 2013, an increase of 13% on the previous year, and for the third successive year represents the highest total for the period in both company and art market history.

Christie's has a global presence with 53 offices in 32 countries and 12 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Mumbai. More recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in growth markets such as Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.

**Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and do not reflect costs, financing fees or application of buyer's or seller's credits.*

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