

CHRISTIE'S AUCTION OF THE DAPHNE GUINNESS COLLECTION SOLD TO BENEFIT THE ISABELLA BLOW FOUNDATION ACHIEVES £476,800 / \$744,285 / €595,523

- New world record prices achieved for photographer Mario Testino, and designers Alexander McQueen, and Christian Lacroix at auction
- Landmark auction of contemporary fashion comprising 102 lots realises four-times the pre-sale estimate, with 88% of lots sold
- Bidders from 21 countries bid in person, over the telephone and online



New world record price for
Alexander McQueen at auction



New world record price for
Mario Testino at auction



New world record price for
Christian Lacroix at auction

South Kensington, London – Christie's evening auction of *The Daphne Guinness Collection; Sold to Benefit the Isabella Blow Foundation* realized a total of **£476,800 / \$744,285 / €595,523** – far-exceeding the pre-sale estimate of £100,000. The auction offered 102 lots, including a selection of dresses, coats, skirts, tops and jackets belonging to Daphne Guinness, as well as selected photographs and her signature shoes. *Please see separate document for the full top ten; click [here](#) to view the full results list online.*

The top lot of the sale was *Daphne Guinness*, a photograph taken by Mario Testino for British Vogue, March 2008 which realized **£133,250 / \$208,003 / €166,429**, setting a new world record price for the photographer at auction.* The top dress of the sale was an ivory silk tulle empire line gown, *The Girl Who Lived In The Tree* by Alexander McQueen, Autumn/Winter 2008-9, sold with Daphne Guinness, a photograph by Mat Collishaw (b. 1966), for Harper's Bazaar UK, May 2012, which set a world record price for the designer at auction, selling for **£85,250 / \$133,075 / €106,477**.** Two dresses (lots 41 and 99) offered in The Daphne Guinness Collection surpassed the previous world record price for McQueen at auction.

The auction's purpose was to launch and raise funds for *The Isabella Blow Foundation*, set up by Daphne in memory of her friend to continue the work of Issie, supporting new and emerging talent in the sphere where art and fashion meet – a realm championed by Daphne. With the help of Christie's specialists, Daphne selected pieces to be auctioned from her personal wardrobe which embody her personal style, most of which were acquired by Daphne directly from the designers themselves. Exceptional designs by the likes of McQueen, Chanel, Balenciaga, Gareth Pugh, Christopher Kane, Lanvin, Lacroix, Prada, Gucci, Alaia and others featured in the sale.

Daphne Guinness commented: *"As I watched the auction from invisible wings this evening, I crossed my fingers and toes. This cause is close to my heart. I am genuinely touched by the response it has generated, and truly excited for the future of The Isabella Blow Foundation. I'm overwhelmed by how many bidders took part this evening and I'm particularly moved by Lady Gaga's support for the Foundation. I like her very much, and it's lovely to see the nascent beginnings of something that may help other people."*

Pat Frost, Director, Fashion and Textiles, Christie's and commented: *"Christie's are delighted with the stellar results of the evening charity auction of the Daphne Guinness Collection sold to benefit the Isabella Blow Foundation, set up in memory of Isabella by Daphne. In assisting Daphne Guinness in her aim to support new fashion talent through the Foundation, Christie's has been privileged to play a part in ensuring the future of couture. It is testament to the style and individuality of Daphne Guinness that international institutions, important designers, well-known fashion icons and private collectors bid against each other for items from her personal wardrobe."*

From working on curating Isabella Blow's wardrobe in 2009 before it was sold privately to Daphne in 2010 to keep it intact, through to this auction of her own Collection and beyond, Christie's passion continues in promoting couture and cutting-edge design talent. Further exciting curated collaborations with both collectors and international clients are planned for the immediate future, commencing with our Vintage Couture sales in November."

*The previous world record price for a Mario Testino photograph at auction was £46,100 / \$94,331, achieved for *Diana, Princess of Wales, Vanity Fair*, sold in November 2007.

**The previous world record price for a design by Alexander McQueen sold at auction was £78,000 / \$120,978, achieved for a black velvet and bugle beaded evening gown, from Alexander McQueen's '*In memory of Elizabeth Howe, Salem 1692*' collection, Autumn-Winter 2007, auctioned in November 2011.

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High resolution images and further information available upon request
View the full results list online [here](#)

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ISABELLA BLOW

FOUNDATION

The objectives of The Isabella Blow Foundation are to promote British fashion and encourage young and aspiring art and fashion students; to create bursary and scholarship funds, enabling students to develop their aspirations and careers in the art and fashion worlds; to develop, curate and establish a public exhibition of Isabella's clothing – the social, cultural and historical significance of the collection cannot be underestimated and the Foundation would seek to exhibit the collection at a number of venues around the world; to raise awareness and allocate financial resources to charities working within the areas of depression and mental health.

For further information or to make a donation, please visit www.isabellablowlfoundation.com

Christie's Fashion

Introduced in 1975, Christie's Fashion, Costume and Textiles Department and the South Kensington saleroom were established simultaneously. Since then, the department has secured Christie's place in the auction market as one of the top destinations for collectors of couture, costume, textiles and accessories. Today, the department contributes to numerous sales each year, offering items from all over the world, and featuring in no less than twenty-five auctions in 2011 including *The Collection of Elizabeth Taylor*, as well as Christie's annual *Fashion* sale, the bi-annual *Elegance* sale of Hermès handbags, and *Interiors, Chinese and Indian and Islamic* sales; estimates start from £500. Focusing on the best of the best, items featured in Christie's sales date from the 17th century right up to the present day, and range from haute couture and fashion pieces, through to historical clothing, handbags and luggage, and costume jewellery, as well as tapestries, samplers and more. The allure of Christie's fashion sales draws International couture collectors and fashion lovers, as well as institutions, offering both ready-to-wear and museum-quality pieces.

Past Important Single-Owner Fashion Collections at Christie's:

The Collection of Elizabeth Taylor

– 14 & 15 December 2011

The Anna Piaggi Collection

– 3 December 2009

A selection from the personal wardrobe of Erin O'Connor

– 16 September 2008

Resurrection: Avant-Garde Fashion

– 30 October 2008

The Nan Kempner Collection	- 1-2 October 2007
Dame Shirley Bassey – 50 Years of Glittering Gowns	- 18 September 2003
Vivienne Westwood Archive from 1985-1995	- 4 September 2001
The Dame Margot Fonteyn Collection	- 12 December 2000
The Personal Property of Marilyn Monroe	- 27 & 28 October 1999
Unforgettable: Fashion of the Oscars	- 18 March 1999
Dresses from the Collection of Diana, Princess of Wales	- 25 June 1997
The Chanel Wardrobe and Casket of Costume Jewellery	- 2 December 1978

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 £300. 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 Film Posters, Pop Memorabilia, Antiquities, Jewellery, 20th Century British Art and Chinese Works of Art, among others. In 2011 Christie's South Kensington realised the highest ever total for the second successive year with sales of £115.9 million / \$186.6 million.

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in 2011 that totaled £3.6 billion/\$5.7 billion. 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 £502 million / \$808.6m in 2011, an increase of 44% on the previous year.

Christie's has a global presence with 53 offices in 32 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, and Hong Kong. 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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