

# Sotheby's

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## OVATION FOR DIDIER LUDOT'S LITTLE BLACK DRESSES

**Total: €612,000**

**More than double the high estimate**

**RECORD IN FRANCE FOR AN HAUTE COUTURE AUCTION IN 2017**



### **Record in France for an Haute Couture dress in 2017**

**Yves Saint Laurent, Ballets Russes Collection, 1976-1977 – €52,500**

**Paris, 3 October –Florent Jeanniard, Head of Sotheby's Design Department said:** "With a total of over €600,000, the sale of the Didier Ludot collection dedicated to the little black dress, staged in collaboration with Kerry Taylor Auctions, achieved a record total in France in 2017 for an Haute Couture auction."

The total fetched €611,922 against an estimate of €195,000 - €280,000, with nearly 100 % of the lots sold by value. This new sale celebrated a monument of fashion – a timeless garment that fascinates couturiers, glorifies women, enchants men and constitutes the indispensable item in any Paris wardrobe worthy of the name: the little black dress.

Museums and collectors from all over the world– particularly Australia, Chile, North America and Scotland – participate to the sale from the auction room, by telephone and online.

According to **Didier Ludot**: *"The results illustrate the timelessness and enduring quality of the little black dress, and Sotheby's is the perfect setting for Haute Couture. We are delighted with the sale results, which was a real victory for taste. The most iconic pieces were enthusiastically acclaimed by collectors and fashion lovers alike. There were also some more affordable items."*

**Kerry Taylor, expert consultant for the sale**: "The bidding was frenetic for the finest haute couture pieces and accessories. Be jewelled shoes by Didier Ludot were hotly contested with one pair reaching a staggering 23,750 against a 2000 euro estimate. Buyers today realise the importance of haute couture as an applied art and also its rarity – its ever diminishing supply as more and more pieces are snapped up by collectors and museums. Provenance is important and to purchase a piece from Monsieur Ludot's legendary collection is an added bonus."

A generous British bidder purchased a rare Alexander McQueen dress from his first haute couture collection for Givenchy for €27,500 which she intends to donate to a UK museum in the future. (lot 77). American museums scooped up some of the top lots of the day – a rare Balenciaga bridal gown, 1968 for €35,000 and **Mrs Krystyna Campbell-Pretty** paid the top price of €52,500 for an Yves Saint Laurent Russian collection ensemble, which she is giving to the **National Gallery of Victoria, Australia**. This set **a record in France for a Haute Couture dress in 2017**.

Another high price went to **Pierre Cardin's** 1969 "Car Wash" model, acquired for **€21,250** by the **Museo de la Moda y Textil in Chile** (lot 50). An identical model is in the Metropolitan Museum of New York and there is a similar model, this time coloured, in the collections of London's Victoria and Albert Museum. A 1964 afternoon dress by **Balenciaga** went for **€21,250** (lot 143), a 1952 trompe-l'œil print dress by **Hermès** for **21,250** (lot 127), and **Jean Patou's** "Nuit de Chine" model in silk chiffon embroidered with an Asian landscape for **€20,000** (lot 17). This dress was lent to the Fashion Institute of the New York Metropolitan Museum for the "China" exhibition in 2015.

To round off this fashion show, the catalogue also featured a dozen creations by **Roger Vivier**, including some extremely rare shoes designed for Christian Dior and embroidered by the Rébé embroidery house. The most sought-after were the 1957-1959 evening model embroidered with silver threads and garnet drops by Rébé (lot 10, **€23,750**) and those known as "à bout turc" in embroidered turquoise silk (lot 52), which were bought for **€15,000** by the **Roger Vivier company**.

*\*Estimates do not include the buyer's premium, and prices consist of the hammer price and the buyer's premium.*

**Images are available on request**

All the catalogues can be viewed online at [www.sothebys.com](http://www.sothebys.com) or on the Sotheby's Catalogue iPad app