

SOTHEBY'S FASHION DEPARTMENT IS MIXING A "HEADY" COCKTAIL SALE SEPTEMBER 30, 1999

New York, NY -- Sotheby's Fashion Department is stirring up its Cocktail sale for September 30, 1999 at 7:00 PM. From speakeasy style to post-modern mingling, this auction's recipe includes everything for the party...from cocktail shakers, rings, and dresses, to photographs, illustrations, and ephemera. Bergdorf Goodman's Fifth Avenue windows will feature the sale items from September 10-22, 1999 and the catalogue will be on-line at www.sothebys.com. People will have the opportunity to bid at all hours of the day in the comfort of their own home. CRIA, the Community Research Initiative on AIDS, will be the recipient of one third of the sales proceeds.

One of the many celebrity highlights of the sale is the brown wool suit with a white mink collar and rhinestone buttons, worn by Marilyn Monroe when she married Joe DiMaggio on January 14, 1954. The famous suit is expected to sell for between \$15,000/20,000. Also included in the sale is a Monroe collector's "dream lot." A suite of jewelry, consisting of a large collar, three bracelets and a pair of earrings, worn by Marilyn at a charity circus event in Madison Square Garden in 1955, as well as, the Milton Greene photographs of her donning the jewelry and riding atop a pink elephant will be offered (est. \$10,000/15,000).

Vogue Magazine, in its review of the 1999/2000 season, coined the phrase "The Chanel Ford" to describe a classic dress designed by Karl Lagerfeld. The dress, originally conceived by Mlle. Chanel in 1926, has been reinvented by Mr. Lagerfeld, and Sotheby's is thrilled to be able to offer bidders a chance to own their own custom-fitted version (est.\$8,000/10,000). The dress requires in excess of 120 hours of painstaking handwork and more than 25 feet of pure silk to complete. Chanel will be donating the proceeds from the sale of this dress to CRIA. For the historical collector, an original Art Deco patterned black lace Chanel cocktail dress circa 1925, (est. \$3,000/4,000) will also be offered.

Another exclusive attraction is a vintage kelly green satin Playboy Bunny costume complete with ears, cuffs, collar and tail from the 1960's heyday of its Playboy Clubs, estimated at \$8,000/10,000. These custom-tailored Bunny costumes were routinely destroyed by Playboy and the sale of the few surviving suits has been strictly prohibited by the company. The only other suit to leave the company's archives in Chicago, is in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC. Playboy will be donating the proceeds from the sale to CRIA. Besides the Bunny costume, the first issue of Playboy magazine, with the landmark Marilyn Monroe centerfold and calendar, is also featured in the sale (\$2,000/3,000). Also featured in the sale is a long-sleeved burgundy velvet gown designed by Catherine Walker for Princess Diana which she wore to the French Embassy in 1989. The proceeds from the sale of the dress, which is estimated at \$30,000/40,000, will be donated to the St. Francis House, a non-profit, comprehensive shelter with basic and emergency services, rehabilitative programs and transitional housing for poor and homeless men and women. The sale will also include two Givenchy runway ensembles. A tan wool sheath dress with matching overcoat and hat is the perfect day into evening dress (est. \$2,000/3,000). Audrey Hepburn, the chic girl-about-town, had one of her costumes for the 1956 *Funny Face* made from this model. Audrey also selected the perfect little black dress to wear in the 1962 movie *Paris When It Sizzles*. Buyers will be able to bid on the original couture model, by Givenchy, in black crepe (est. \$1,000/1,500).

Teetering between the alluring and the risqué, the sale also offers a costume for every tipping scenario. For demurely drinking at dusk - a rare 1959 Yves St. Laurent for Christian Dior princess cut dress and matching coat (est. \$1,000/1,500). Cocktail dresses on paper from Marc Bohan for Christian Dior provide an outstanding record of the Spring-Summer 1973 collection. The archive includes 85 hand-colored fashion sketches with attached swatches (est. \$5,000/7,000).

For movers and shakers, colorful beaded Pucci ensembles from the 1960s will attract the party lights and fellow guests (est. \$1,000/1,500). For the hip hostess, nothing is more appropriate than a 1960's Norell black slipper satin cocktail dress (est. \$700/900) or an Adrian original two-piece beaded gown (est. \$3,000/4,000).

A Worth cloak from the late 1880's (est. \$2,000/3,000) or a Balenciaga cocktail dress from the Spring 1948 collection (est. \$3,500/4,000) would be perfect for anyone desiring to make the grandest of entrances.

Evidence of memorable parties of the past is offered in a silver replica of Barbara Hutton's Japanese-style retreat in Mexico and the garments she wore at the numerous parties thrown there (\$3,000/4,000). The collection includes lounging caftans crafted from exotic textiles, cheongsams in every color of the rainbow, and traditional couture

cocktail attire ranging from (\$750/1,000 to \$2,000/3,000).

The sale would not be complete without the ever essential bar accessories. Whimsical additions are an aeroplane cocktail shaker with detachable wings which double as flasks (est. \$750/1,000), a bell-shaped cocktail shaker from the 1950s (est. \$300/400), and a Buccellati lighter in the shape of a frog (est. \$800/1,000).

Save the date and plan on being shaken and not stirred!

Dates:

Bergdorf Goodman Windows - September 10 - 22, 1999

Sotheby's Exhibition - September 26 -30, 1999

Auction - Thursday, September 30, 1999 @ 7pm

For more information, please call Tiffany Dubin (212) 774-5304, fax (212) 774-5393 tiffany.dubin@sothebys.com