

CHRISTIE'S

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CHRISTIE'S ANNOUNCES

*Vivienne
Westwood*

THE PERSONAL COLLECTION



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**CHRISTIE'S TO SELL THE PERSONAL WARDROBE OF
PIONEERING FASHION DESIGNER VIVIENNE WESTWOOD
TO RAISE FUNDS FOR CHARITABLE CAUSES INCLUDING
THE VIVIENNE FOUNDATION**



Witches (Autumn/Winter 1983/84), *Dressed to Scale* (Autumn/Winter 1998/99) and *Propaganda* (Autumn/Winter 2005/06)

London – Christie’s is honoured to announce the sale of the personal wardrobe of the revolutionary British fashion designer and activist Vivienne Westwood to raise funds for charitable causes she championed. Dame Vivienne Westwood is recognised globally as one of the most influential designers of modern times, establishing one of the world’s leading fashion brands. Andreas Kronthaler, Vivienne’s husband and Creative Director of Vivienne Westwood®, has selected iconic looks from Vivienne’s wardrobe to be presented across two auctions: a live sale taking place in London on 25 June with an online auction taking place alongside from 14 to 28 June 2024.

Spanning four decades, more than 200 lots will be offered across the two sales, each of them representing a significant moment in Vivienne’s life and career, with the earliest look dating from Autumn/Winter 1983/84. A free public exhibition showcasing Vivienne Westwood: The Personal Collection will take place at Christie’s headquarters on King Street, London from 14 to 24 June. The fashion, jewellery and accessories will be offered to benefit The Vivienne Foundation, Amnesty International and Médecins Sans Frontières, alongside [THE BIG PICTURE – Vivienne’s Playing Cards, a project by The Vivienne Foundation to raise funds for Greenpeace.](#)

*A genius born 1941
 Vivienne was a rebel
 An outsider who had a calling
 To be different
 To explode the system
 She was an original thinker
 Vivienne was our heroine*

Andreas Kronthaler

The Vivienne Foundation added: “Vivienne was a style icon throughout her lifetime. Her deep interest in intellectual and political ideas informed her natural skill in fashion design, where she became one of the very few true originators. There will simply never be another Vivienne Westwood.”

Adrian Hume Sayer, Director Private & Iconic Collections, Christie's, Head of Sale stated: "Vivienne Westwood's sense of activism, art and style is embedded in each and every piece that she created. The pre-sale exhibition and auctions at Christie's will celebrate her extraordinary vision with a selection of looks that mark significant moments not only in her career, but also in her personal life. This will be a unique opportunity for audiences to encounter both the public the private world of the great Dame Vivienne Westwood and to raise funds for the causes in which she so ardently believed."



Dressed to Scale
(© Richard Young / Shutterstock)



Propaganda, Dressed to Scale and Witches



Propaganda
(© Victor Virgile / Getty Images)

One of the earliest collections by Vivienne Westwood, *Witches*, Autumn/Winter 1983/84, was inspired in part by witchcraft and Keith Haring's graphic code of magic symbols. The collection featured swirling silhouettes, enormous peaked-shoulders and layered knitwear (the earliest piece offered in The Personal Collection, a two-piece ensemble of navy-blue serge, illustrated above centre and on previous page). This pioneering collection was presented in Paris to critical acclaim.

Vivienne Westwood played with scale to create a sense of displacement in her collections, in a technique akin to Surrealism and the ways in which a familiar scene is transmogrified. In *Dressed to Scale*, Autumn/Winter 1998/99, elements of a garment were blown up to become the decorative focus. These extremes referenced the fashions that were documented by the 18th century satirist James Gillray and were intended to attract as well as provoke thought and debate (a corset gown of taupe silk taffeta illustrated above left and centre and on previous page).

Perhaps more than any designer, Vivienne Westwood understood the power of communicating a message through an item of clothing. *Propaganda*, Autumn/Winter 2005/06, was Vivienne's most overtly political show to date, referencing her punk days as well as an essay by Aldous Huxley, titled *Propaganda in a Democratic Society* (a dress with blue and white striped blouse and printed propaganda modesty panel and apron illustrated above right and on previous page).

[CHRISTIE'S NEW PRESS CENTRE IS NOW ONLINE](#)

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PRESS CONTACT: Sara Macdonald | saramacdonald@christies.com | +44 (0)20 7752 3136 | Christie's EMEA

NOTES TO EDITORS

Vivienne Westwood's Personal Collection will benefit the following charitable causes:



About The Vivienne Foundation

The Vivienne Foundation exists to honour, protect and continue the legacy of Dame Vivienne Westwood's creativity and activism. Since the start of her career in the 1970s, she has been renowned not only for her fashion design, but also for her activism. Vivienne always utilised her platform of prestige to make the world a better place. The Foundation is built upon Vivienne's four-pillar approach to saving the world — halt climate change, stop war, defend human rights and protest capitalism. The Foundation raises awareness and fundraises for NGOs aligned with their mission to create a better society and halt climate change.



About Médecins Sans Frontières

Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF) is an international, independent, medical humanitarian organisation. MSF's goal is to relieve suffering, save lives, reduce the spread of diseases and improve access to healthcare. MSF provides both basic and complex medical care to those who need it most, regardless of ethnicity, religion, gender or political affiliation.

MSF treats victims of armed conflict and natural disasters, fights outbreaks of infectious diseases, conducts vaccination campaigns, alleviates malnutrition, supports survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, and provides maternal and child healthcare, and mental healthcare.

Funds raised through this auction will ensure MSF can continue their emergency life-saving work providing humanitarian aid where it is needed the most, such as in the crises they are responding to in Afghanistan, Syria, Ukraine and Yemen.



About Amnesty International

Amnesty International works to protect people wherever justice, freedom, truth and dignity are denied. As a global movement of over ten million people, Amnesty is the world's largest grassroots human rights organisation. We investigate and expose abuses, educate and mobilise the public, and help transform societies to create a safer, more just world. We received the Nobel Peace Prize for our life-saving work.

THE BIG PICTURE – Vivienne's Playing Cards, a project by The Vivienne Foundation, will raise funds for Greenpeace:



About Greenpeace

Greenpeace is a movement of people who are passionate about defending the natural world from destruction. Their vision is for a greener, healthier and more peaceful planet. Founded in 1971, Greenpeace takes peaceful, direct action to protect our Earth. Today, Greenpeace is present in every continent around the world. Greenpeace's mission is to galvanise action and promote solutions to how we live on this planet so that we can all call it home for generations to come.

About Christie's

Founded in 1766, Christie's is a world-leading art and luxury business with a physical presence in 46 countries throughout the Americas, Europe, Middle East, and Asia Pacific, and flagship international sales hubs in New York, London, Hong Kong, Paris and Geneva. Renowned and trusted for our expert live and online-only auctions, as well as bespoke Private Sales, Christie's unparalleled network of specialists offers our clients a full portfolio of global services, including art appraisal, art financing, international real estate and education. Christie's auctions span more than 80 art and luxury categories, at price points ranging from \$500 to over \$100 million. Christie's has sold 7 of the 10 most important single-owner collections in history, achieved the world record price for an artwork at auction, launched the first fully on-chain auction platform dedicated to exceptional NFT art and manages an investment fund to support innovative startups in the art market. Christie's is also committed to advancing responsible culture throughout its business and communities worldwide. To learn more, browse, bid, discover, and join us for the best of art and luxury at christies.com or by downloading Christie's apps.

** Please note when quoting estimates above that other fees will apply in addition to the hammer price - see Section D of the Conditions of Sale at the back of the sale catalogue. *Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium.*

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