

CHRISTIE'S

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THE ART OF LITERATURE EXHIBITION

with Fashion by
Molly Goddard

part of London Now

6 – 15 June



The Art of Literature Exhibition with Fashion by Molly Goddard

*(Illustrated above) Two looks from British fashion designer Molly Goddard, from the Autumn/Winter 2019 Collection, which took inspiration from *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* by Thomas Hardy (published 1891)*

LONDON – Christie's is delighted to announce **The Art of Literature Exhibition** will feature fashion by Molly Goddard, a designer whose creative inspiration comes from a range of influences including the work of author Thomas Hardy. Part of London Now, **The Art of Literature Exhibition: Auction Highlights** (on view at Christie's King Street in St James's from 6 to 15 June) will be showcasing a selection of artistic masterpieces inspired by literature

through the ages, presented alongside looks from Goddard's Autumn/Winter 2019 Ready-to-Wear Collection, which was inspired by *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*.

Molly Goddard has been a fixture on the British runway since the brand's inception in 2014, with the designer known internationally for her ethereal tulle dresses loved by many, and worn on the red carpet and on screen including by actresses Sonam Kapoor, Rosamund Pike and Jodie Comer.

Over the seasons the iconic tulle has been joined by taffeta, organdie and silk in voluminous, tiered and frilled joyful creations. In 2019 Molly took inspiration from the English countryside and also from classic narratives of English literature, in particular from the author Thomas Hardy's novel, *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*. Molly explained that these looks were about being frivolous and fabulous but also strong, tough and resilient – not just surviving but thriving. Signature tulle was adapted for all weathers and paired with utilitarian accessories inspired by Thomas Hardy's ill-fated 19th-century British heroine, Tess Durbeyfield.

Molly Goddard comments, '*Hardy paints an incredible picture of the English landscape and seasons in Tess of the d'Urbervilles. The collection was definitely about being wrapped up against the weather physically and metaphorically. The pieces included in the exhibition are a very good representation of what we do best, by which I mean taking simple designs and turning them into something totally different, using techniques like shirring and hand-smocking, or by scaling them up and using unexpected fabrics.*'

Annabelle Scholar, co-curator comments, '*We are thrilled to include these wondrous creations by Molly in The Art of Literature Exhibition, pieces which were inspired by a work of literature and ushered in a new era of British fashion. In this cross category exhibition spanning three millennia we're looking at how the written word has inspired artists and creatives to make works of art, or bring new meaning to existing works of art.*'



The Art of Literature Exhibition with Fashion by Molly Goddard

(Illustrated above) Two looks from British fashion designer Molly Goddard, from the Autumn/Winter 2019 Collection, which took inspiration from *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* by Thomas Hardy (published 1891)

Molly Goddard pieces featuring in the exhibition includes (illustrated on page 1 left), *Daria dress A/W19, Hand smocked stiff tulle, magenta*; (page 1 right), *Pearl Dress A/W19 Hand*

smocked stiff tulle, pale green; (above left), Frilled stiff tulle, black; (above right), Hand smocked stiff tulle, magenta.

The Art of Literature Exhibition: Auction Highlights, with Fashion by **Molly Goddard**, is open to the public at Christie's, King Street, St James's, London from 6 to 15 June. In addition **The Art of Literature Exhibition: Loan and Selling** will run from 6 June to 15 July, and is also open to the public. Comprising 50 works, the exhibition is curated to present the finest examples of works from categories including 20th and 21st Century Art, Islamic Art, Books and Manuscripts, Old Masters, 19th Century Art and Decorative Arts.

To read the Christie's feature on The Art of Literature Exhibition with Fashion by Molly Goddard please see [here](#)

Please find a drop box link [here](#) for imagery contained within the release.

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About Molly Goddard

Molly Goddard was born and raised in London and studied at Central Saint Martins.



Exploiting the tension between maximalism and restraint, Goddard's exploration of transparencies, fabric manipulation, construction and volume is key to her work, as are techniques such as hand-smocking and shirring. Since its inception in 2014, the label has developed considerably — signature tulle has been joined by taffeta, organza and silk — while the range of products has expanded to include menswear and bridal. Molly Goddard collections are held in some of the world's most respected stores such as Dover Street Market, Browns, I.T and Matches among others. She has her own store-in-store at Dover Street Market London and has created multiple installations worldwide.

Goddard has been highly commended for the presentation of her work. She finds unique ways to build worlds for her collections and has been included in Vogue's Most Unforgettable Fashion Shows Of All Time. Examples of her work are in the permanent collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute, New York and the Victoria & Albert Museum, London.

Her collections have received top editorial coverage from titles including Vogue (American, British and others), i-D, The Gentlewoman and Dazed and Confused. Molly was selected as a finalist in the 2017 LVMH Prize, won the prestigious BFC Vogue Designer Fashion Fund in May 2018 and was awarded a BFC Fashion Trust grant in 2019. In 2018, Goddard released her first book, 'Patty' with photographer Tim Walker and stylist Alice Goddard. Earlier accolades include the Harper's Bazaar Women of the Year 2017 Breakthrough Designer and British Emerging Talent Award at the 2016 Fashion Awards.

<https://mollygoddard.com/>

About Christie's

Founded in 1766, Christie's is a world-leading art and luxury business. Renowned and trusted for its expert live and online auctions, as well as its bespoke private sales, Christie's offers a full portfolio of [global services](#) to its clients, including art appraisal, art financing, international real estate and education. Christie's has a physical presence in 46 countries, throughout the Americas, Europe, Middle East, and Asia Pacific, with flagship [international sales hubs](#) in New York, London, Hong Kong, Paris and Geneva. It also is the only international auction house authorized to hold sales in mainland China (Shanghai).

Christie's [auctions](#) span more than [80 art and luxury categories](#), at price points ranging from \$200 to over \$100 million. In recent years, Christie's has achieved the world record price for an artwork at auction (Leonardo da Vinci's *Salvator Mundi*, 2017), for a single charitable collection sale (the Collection of Peggy and David Rockefeller, 2018), and for a work by a living artist (Jeff Koons' *Rabbit*, 2019).

Christie's [Private Sales](#) offers a seamless service for buying and selling art, jewellery and watches outside of the auction calendar, working exclusively with Christie's specialists at a client's individual pace.

Recent innovations at Christie's include the groundbreaking sale of the first NFT for a digital work of art ever offered at a major auction house (Beeple's *Everydays*, March 2021), with the unprecedented acceptance of cryptocurrency as a means of payment. As an industry leader in digital innovation, Christie's also continues to pioneer new technologies that are redefining the business of art, including the creation of viewing and bidding experiences that integrate augmented reality, global livestreaming, buy-now channels, and hybrid sales formats.

Christie's is dedicated to advancing [responsible culture](#) throughout its business and communities worldwide, including achieving sustainability through net zero carbon emissions by 2030, and actively using its platform in the art world to amplify under-represented voices and support positive change.

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