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| **Schiaparelli, Elsa (1890-1973)** |
| **Schiaparelli, Elsa Luisa Maria** |
| ElsaLuisa Maria Schiaparelli was an avantgarde fashion designer extremely influential in the 1930s. Born in Rome into a well-to-do family, an early mésalliance with William de Wendt de Kerlo forced her to live in poverty in London and New York until she moved to Paris where she met avantgarde artists and – without ever having learned to sew - began her career in fashion. In contrast to Coco Chanel’s modernist simplicity, Schiaparelli indulged in aesthetic exaggerations and a profusion of fantastic decorations like luxurious embroideries (realized by François Lesage [1929-2011]), often inspired by surrealist art. |
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| Further reading:  (Koda and Bolton)  (Lehnert)  (Schiaparelli)  (White) |