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Photo Laziz Hamani

Vénus

AUTUMN-WINTER 1949

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Purchased for me by my parents in 1949 from a lovely store named Levy's. My parents surprised me with this gown for my debut – which was an afternoon tea. It was the only time the gown has ever been worn, just once!

— MAVIS B. POWELL

LINE

Milieu du siècle

OCCASION

Ball dress

ATELIER FLOU

Unknown

MANNEQUIN

Tania

TEXTILE

Silk tulle; sequins, paillette embroidery by Rébé

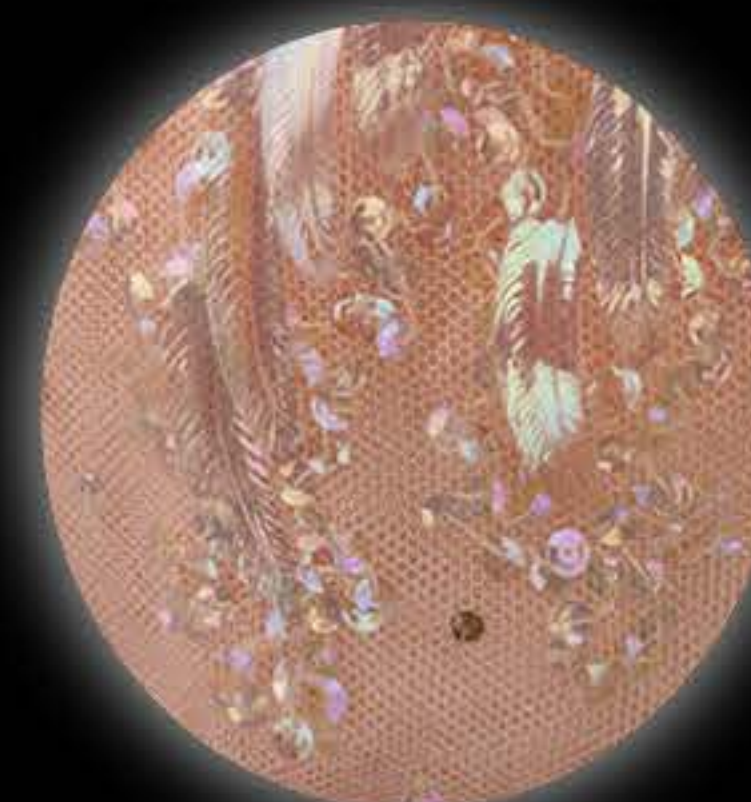
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ON LOAN FROM THE ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM, TORONTO

Vénus

AUTUMN-WINTER 1949

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Press Sketch

DIOR HÉRITAGE COLLECTION, PARIS

Christian Dior

30. AVENUE MONTAIGNE

PARIS - 8^e



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PARIS / SODRAC, MONTREAL (2017)



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L'Officiel de la couture, 1949

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POTTER

Debutante Mavis Powell received this high-end American commercial copy of Dior's *Vénus* as a surprise gift from her parents.

It was sold by Levy's, who called it "A work of art."

She only wore it once to her coming-out afternoon tea dance in Florida. Straps were added to make the design demure.



This is an authorized copy by the high-end American company Nanty (1920s-50s).

Nanty Frocks (1920s-50s) was a high-end American manufacturer that produced copies of Paris and London couture models, purchased by their buyer, Charles Rendigs. In the fall of 1949, Charles James was the company designer.

PHOTO LAZIZ HAMANI





Above: The iridescent “feather” sequin #598S1 was made by sequin manufacturer Lecoq et Riou. The mould for this sequin is now lost.

The embroidery with 10 different sequins and beads includes the distinctive iridescent feather, rhinestones in settings, and 8 varieties of cupped and flat sequins in two shades. It was originally designed by Maison Rébé.

* PHOTO LAZIZ HAMANI