



SPRING-SUMMER 1949





There is no key [to good dressing]. If there were it would be too easy, rich women could buy the key and all their fashion worries would be over! But simplicity, grooming, and good taste ...cannot be bought ... they can be learnt, by rich and poor alike.

— LITTLE DICTIONARY OF FASHION, CHRISTIAN DIOR, 1954

LINE

Trompe-l'œil

OCCASION

Late-day coat

ATELIER TAILLEUR

Paul

MANNEQUIN

Collette

TEXTILE

Silk twill taffeta plaid by F. Ducharne Soieries

2009.62.1.1

ON LOAN FROM THE ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM, TORONTO





Press Sketch

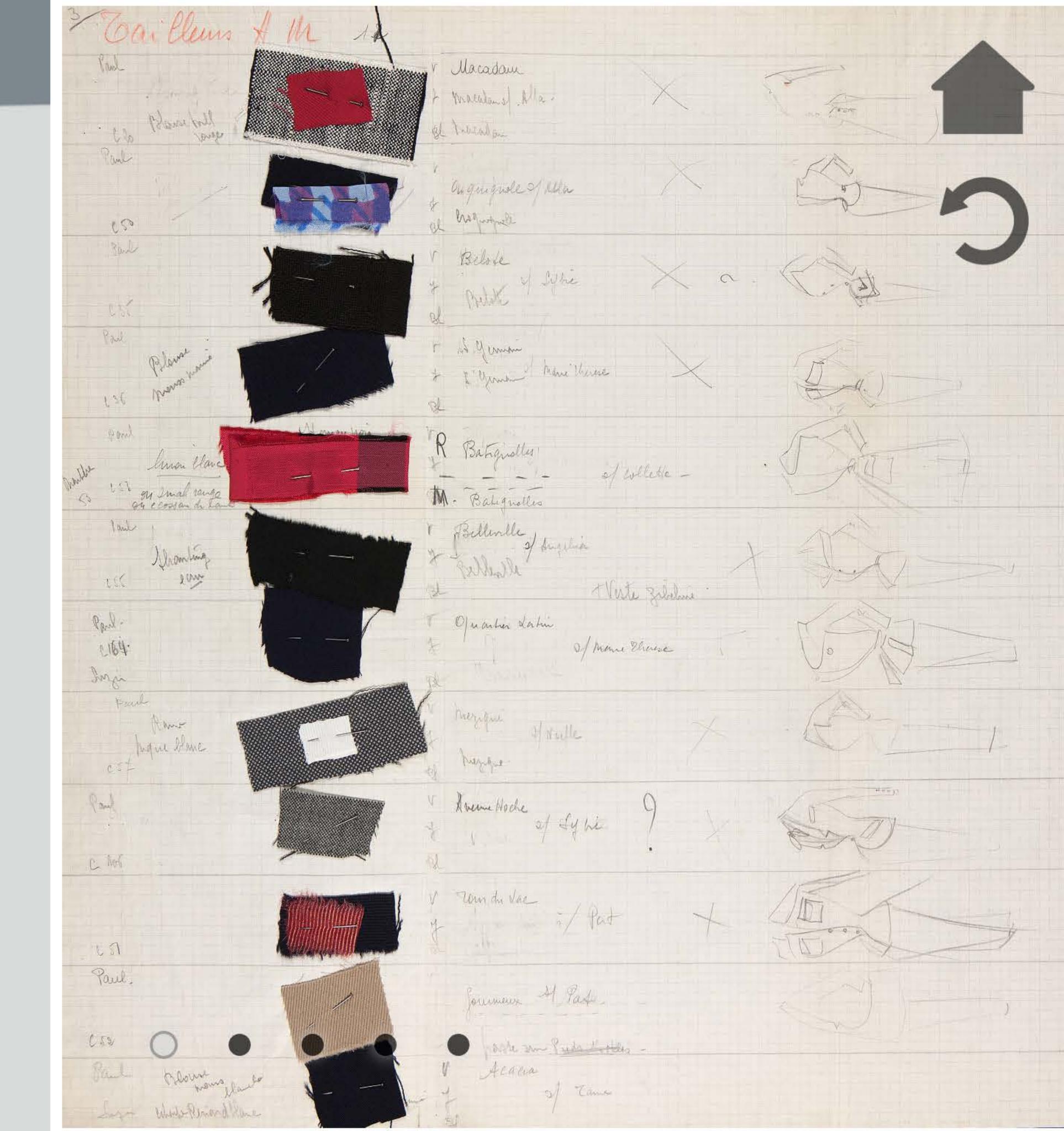


Chart

Each chart recorded the designs in a collection by type, who made it, for whom, and with textile swatches. This ensured the ateliers' work was evenly distributed and that the mannequins had time to change during daily presentations.







Batignolles is a neighbourhood in the 17th arrondissement in Paris, known for an active cultural scene, popularized after the artist Édouard Manet painted its café life in the late 19th century.

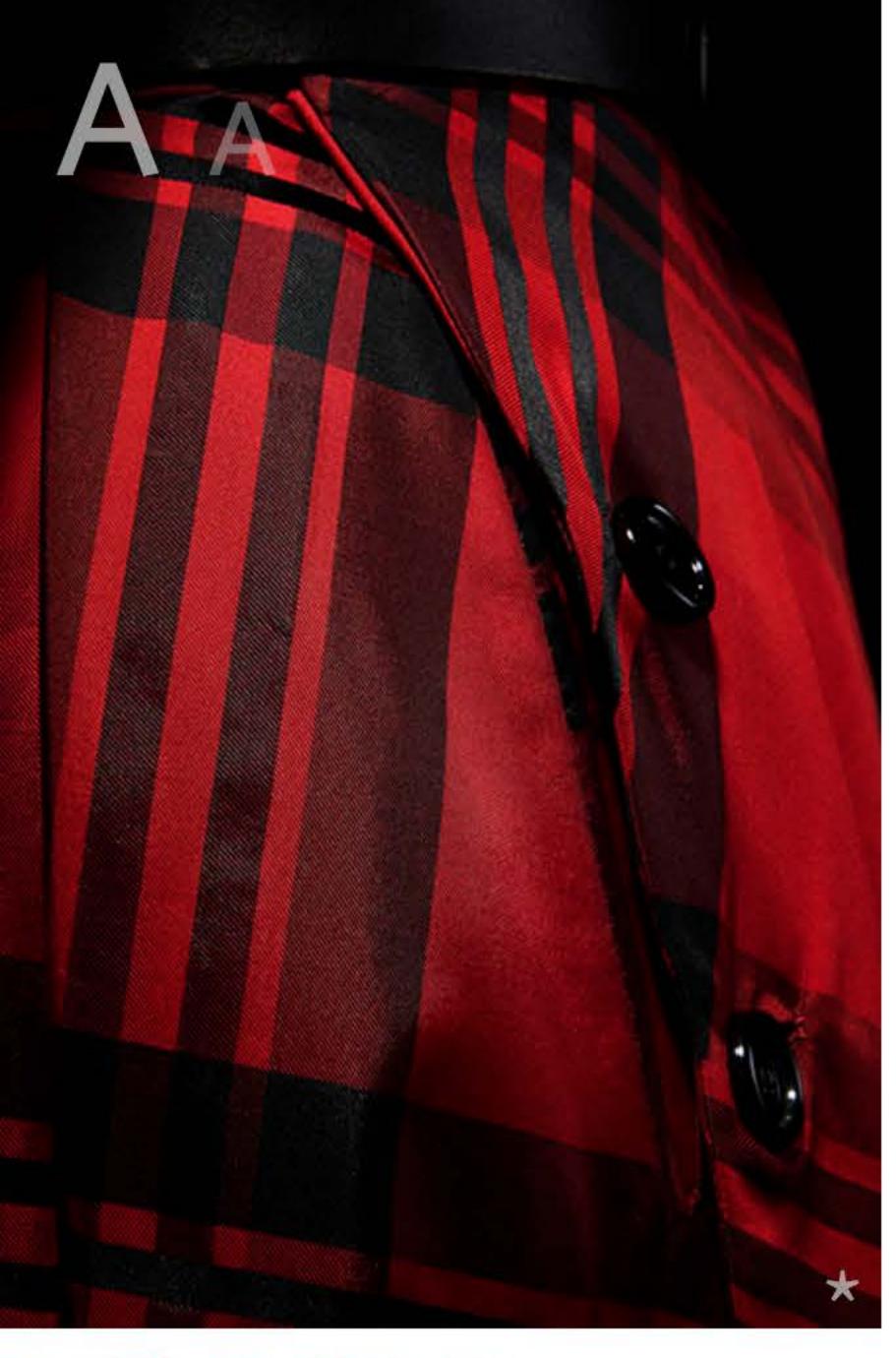
© ASSOCIATION WILLY MAYWALD / ADAGP, PARIS / SODRAC, MONTREAL (2017)



Canadian Lillian Weiss wore this coatdress for dancing at The Highlands nightclub, Cambridge (Ontario).

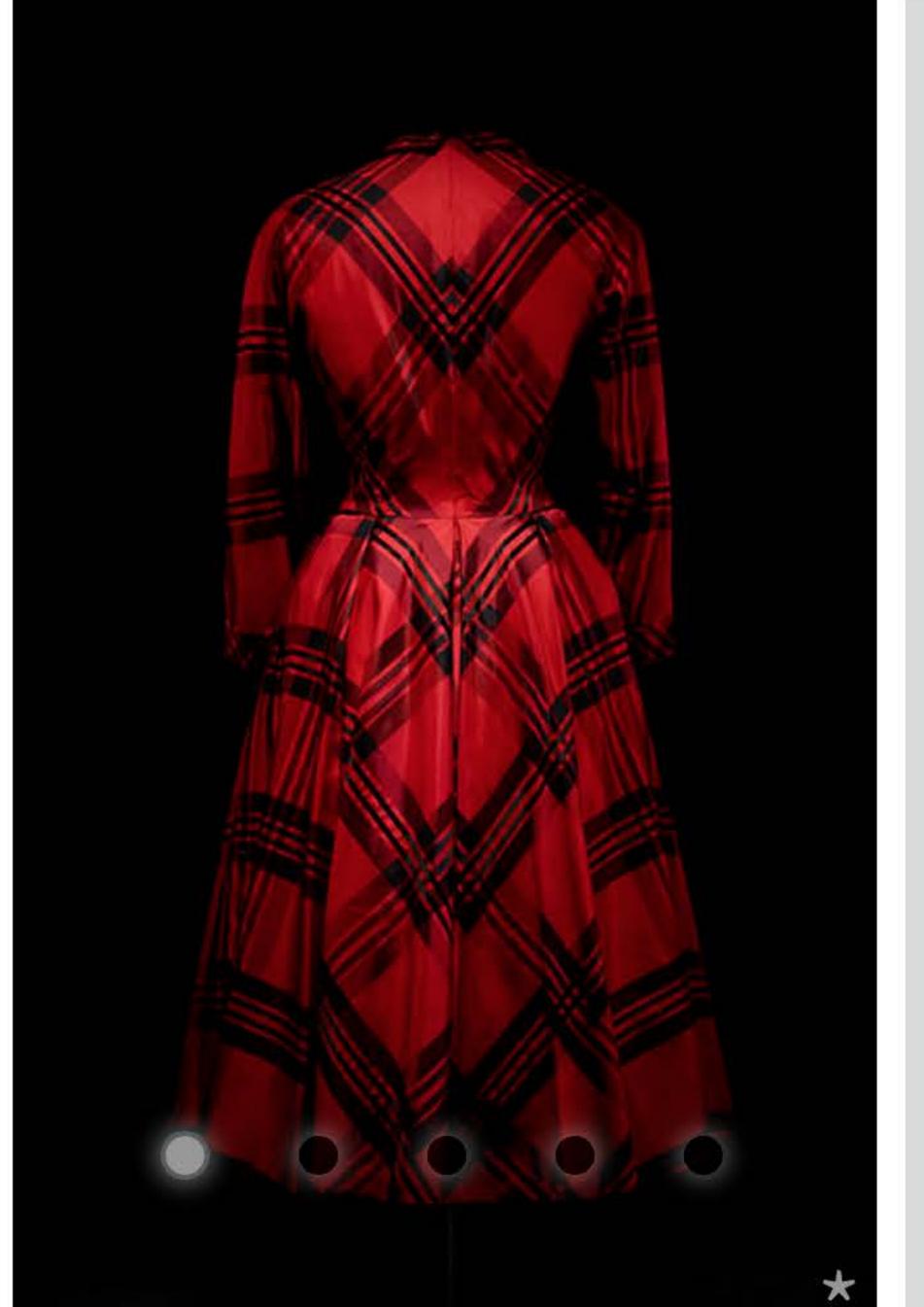
UNKNOWN PHOTOGRAPHER, COURTESY LILLIAN WEISS











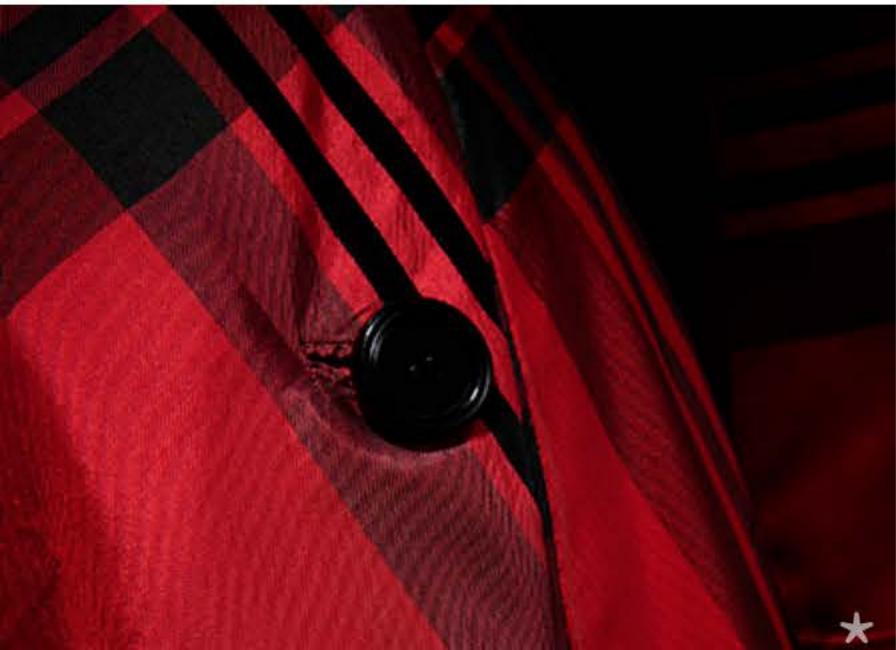
The manipulation and matching of the plaid on the diagonal creates dramatic movement in the full skirt (circumference 410 cm / 13'5").

Silk twill taffeta plaid by F.

Ducharne Soieries (1920-1972),
a Lyonnais luxury silk company
that designed and
manufactured for haute
couture.

Left top: Pocket

* PHOTOS LAZIZ HAMANI





A very energetic and beneficial colour. It is the colour of life. I love red and I think it suits almost every complexion. It is good for any time, too.

- CHRISTIAN DIOR, 1954

LINE

OCCASION Cocktail dress

ATELIER FLOU

Hélène

Y

MANNEQUIN

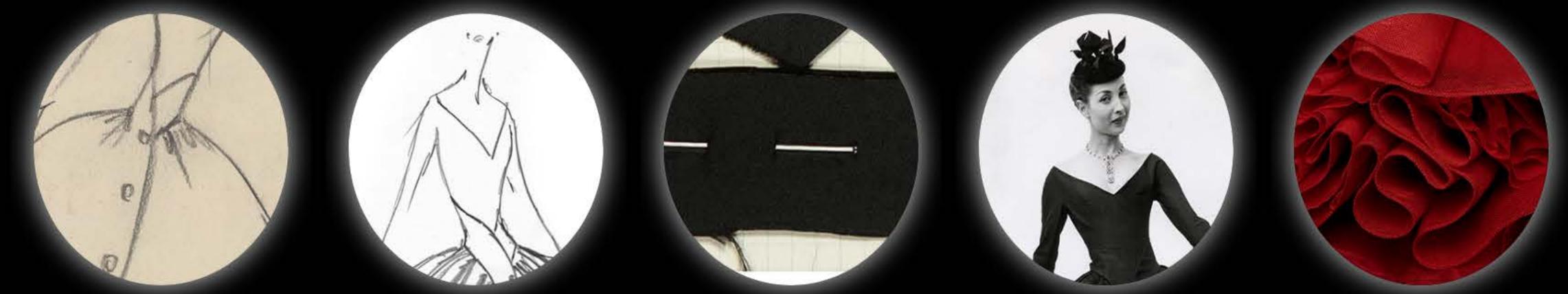
Renée

TEXTILE

Silk faille, organdy lining, cotton tulle, nylon crinoline petticoat

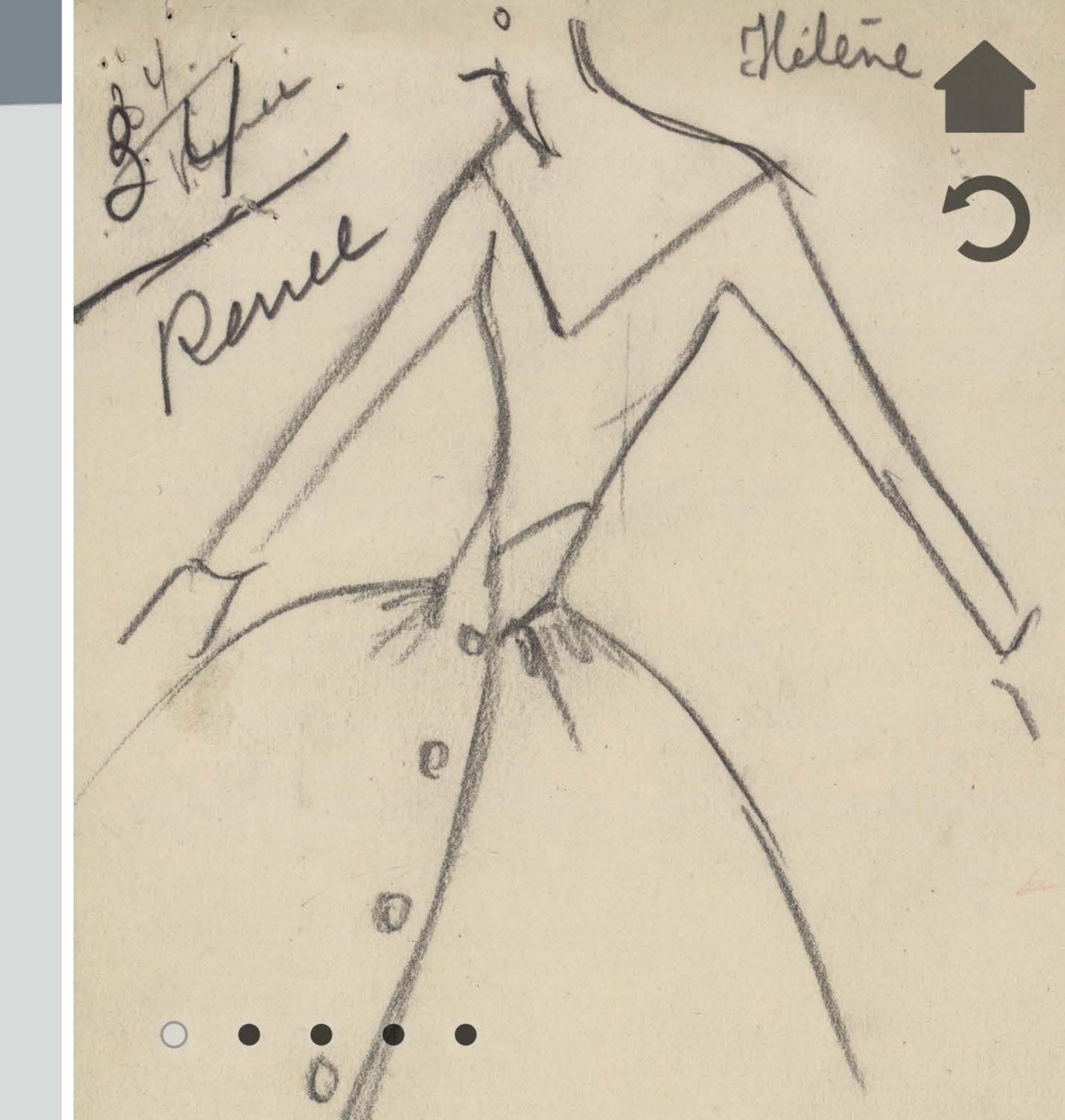
964.164

GIFT OF MRS. ANNE GARDINER • ON LOAN FROM THE ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM, TORONTO



Croquis

Croquis (original sketch by Christian Dior) of *Zémire* with swatch of black silk.





Press Sketch



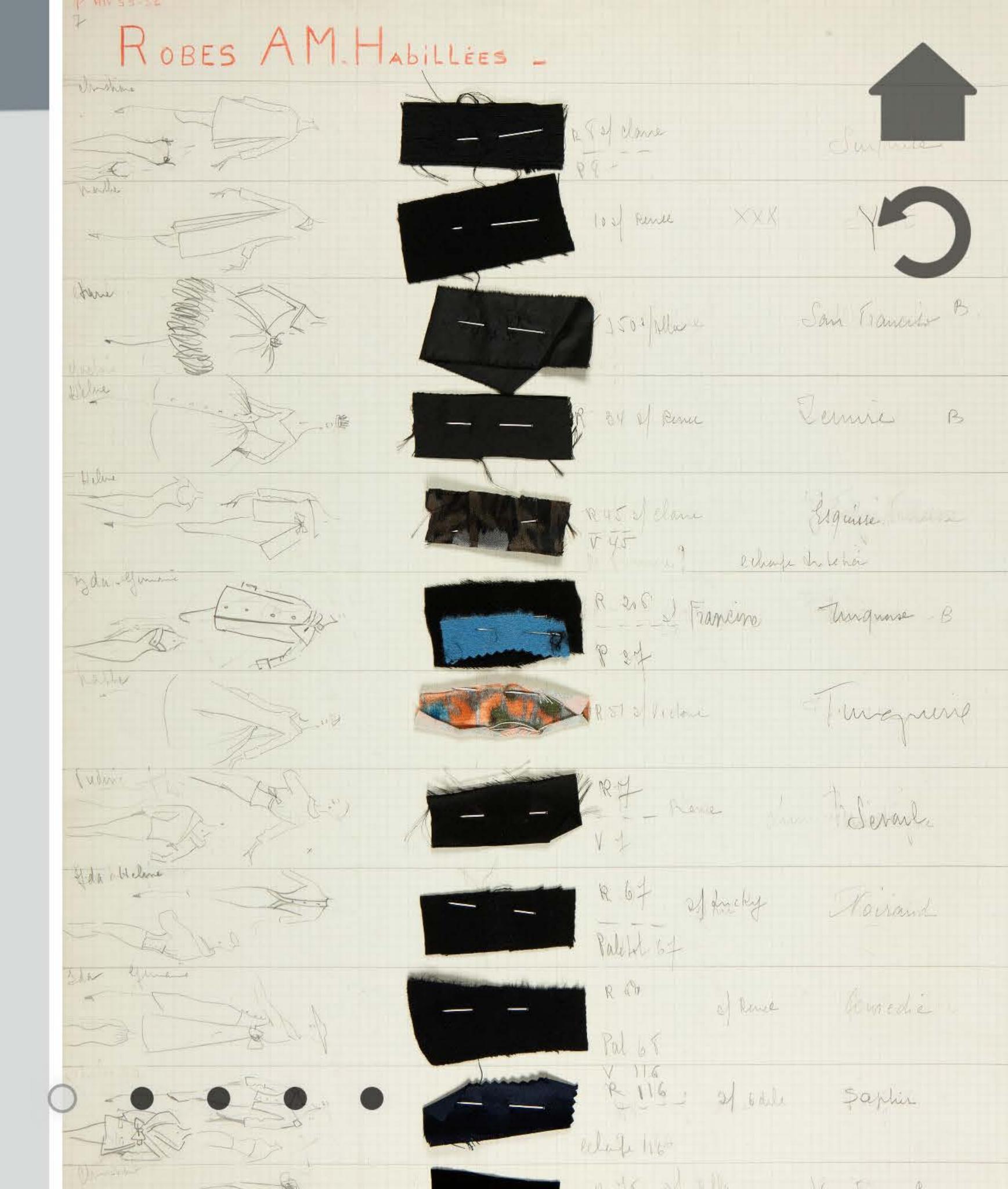


Chart

Zémire was originally presented in black.

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Zémire refers to the lead soprano in the comic opera Zémire et Azor (1771), by André Grétry. It was the basis for Jean Cocteau's 1946 film, La Belle et la Bête.

© JACQUES ROUCHON







Below: The fitted sleeve is cut in one piece with the front and back bodice. The underarm is inset with a pieced gusset to allow movement

Above: Carefully organized and layered petticoats maintain the "parachute" fullness of the wide skirt that is kept flat in the front.

Above: The "Y" of the Yline.

* PHOTOS LAZIZ HAMANI



