



Batignolles
SPRING-SUMMER 1949

Zémire
AUTUMN-WINTER 1955



Batignolles
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 ... can be learnt, by rich and poor alike.

— *LITTLE DICTIONARY OF FASHION*, CHRISTIAN DIOR, 1954

LINE	<i>Trompe-l'œil</i>
OCCASION	Late-day coat
ATELIER FLOU	Marthe
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

DIOR HÉRITAGE COLLECTION, PARIS

Christian Dior
30, AVENUE MONTAIGNE
PARIS - 8^e



DIOR HÉRITAGE COLLECTION, PARIS



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.

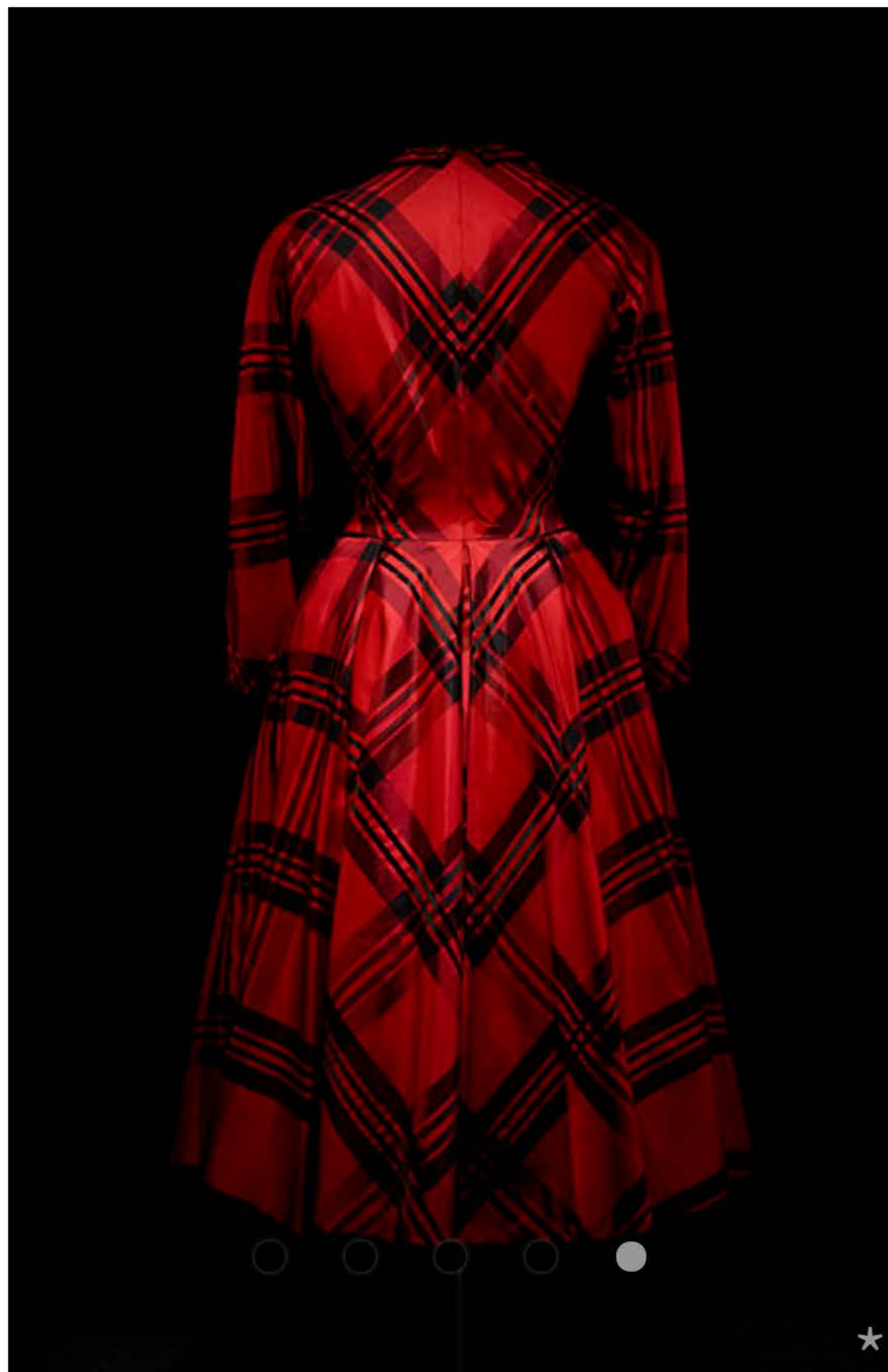
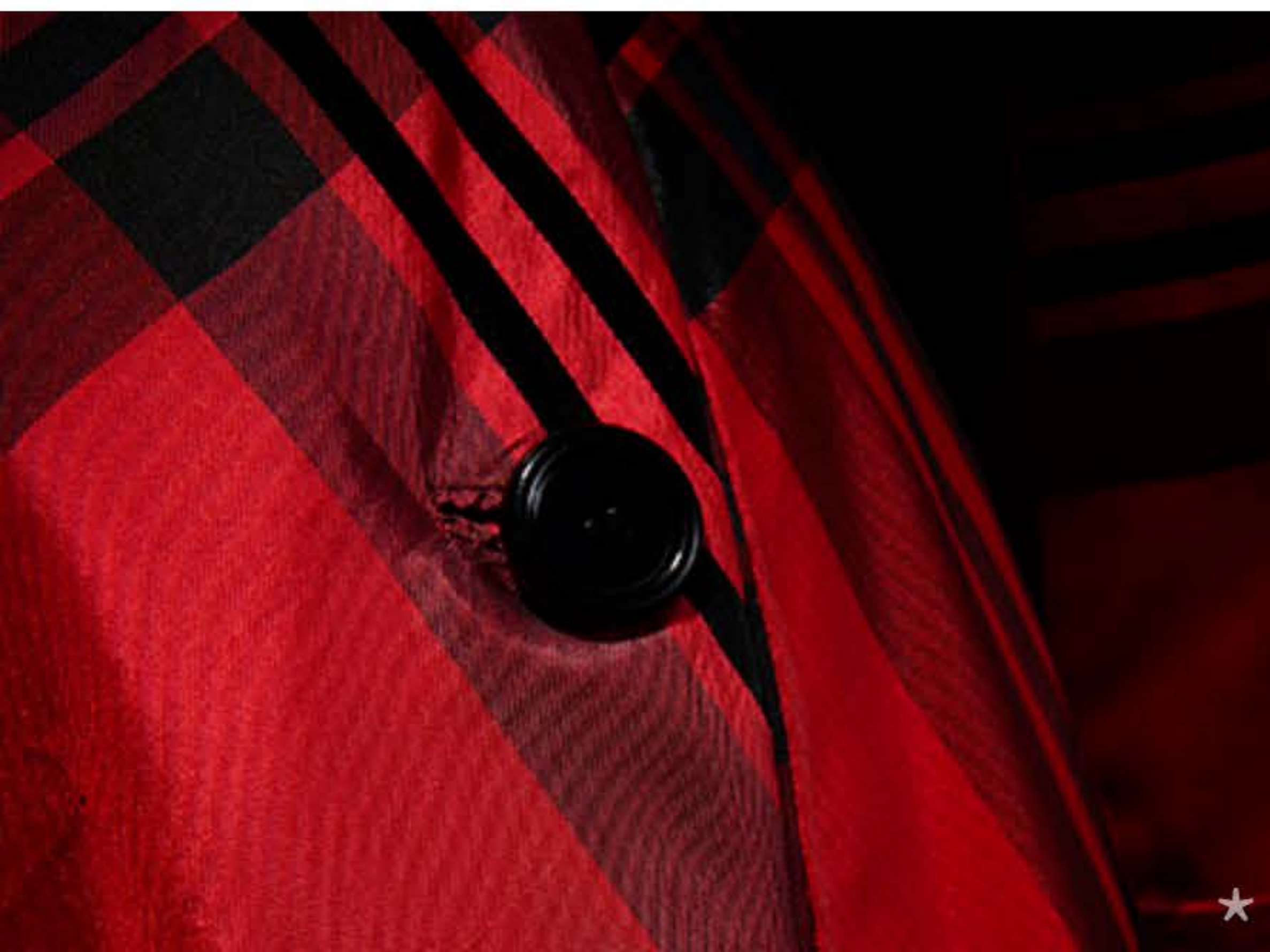
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Canadian Lillian Weiss wore this coat-dress for dancing at The Highlands nightclub, Cambridge (Ontario).

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



Zémire
AUTUMN-WINTER 1955

Photo Laziz Hamani

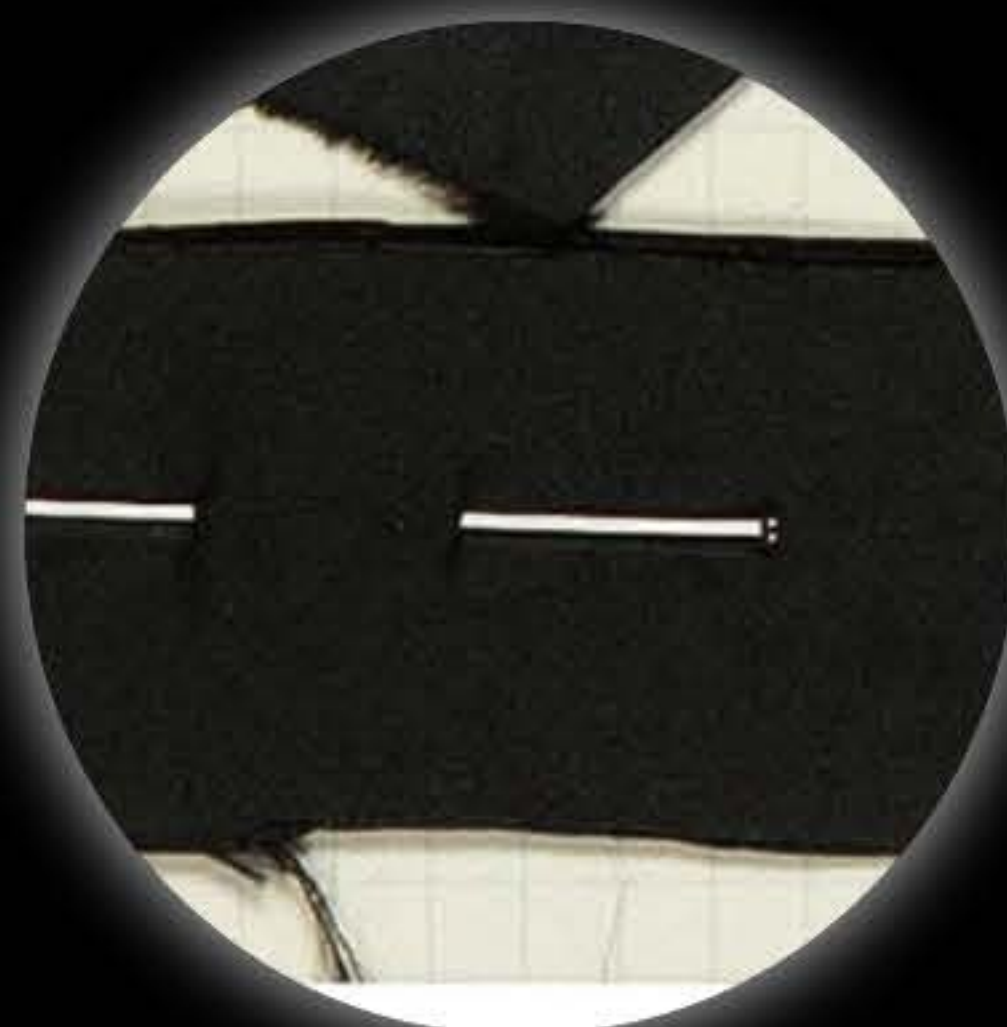
A very energetic and beneficial colour. It is the colour of life. I love red and I think it suits almost every complexion. It is good for any time, too.

— CHRISTIAN DIOR, 1954

LINE	Y
OCCASION	Cocktail dress
ATELIER FLOU	Hélène
MANNEQUIN	Renée
TEXTILE	Silk faille, organdy lining, cotton tulle, nylon crinoline petticoat

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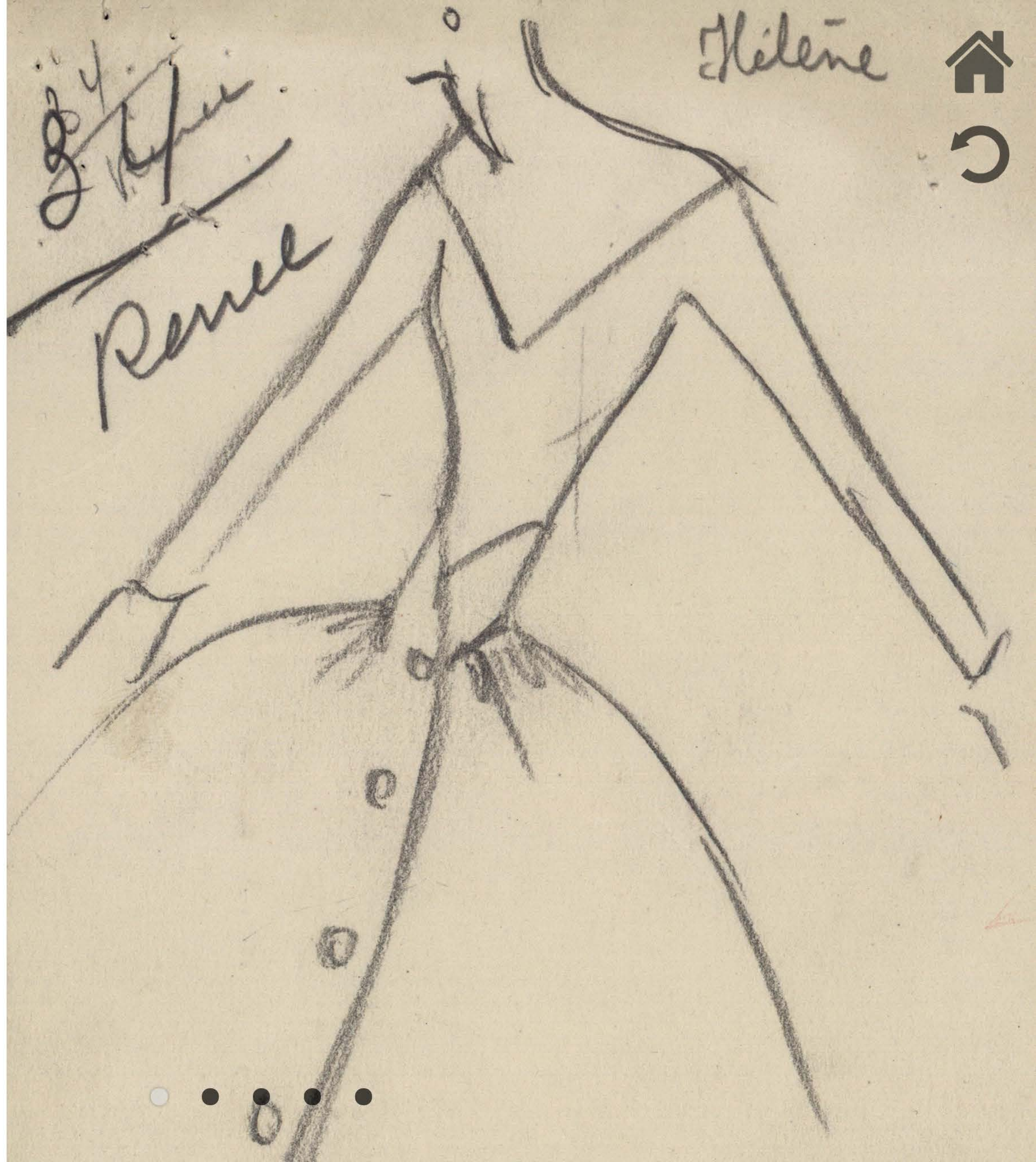
GIFT OF MRS. ANNE GARDINER ▪ ON LOAN FROM THE ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM,
TORONTO



Croquis

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

DIOR HÉRITAGE COLLECTION, PARIS



Press Sketch

DIOR HÉRITAGE COLLECTION, PARIS

Christian Dior

SOCIÉTÉ À RESPONSABILITÉ LIMITÉE - CAPITAL 35.000.000 DE FR\$

30, AVENUE MONTAIGNE
PARIS

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Chart

Zémire was originally presented in black.

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.

DIOR HÉRITAGE COLLECTION, PARIS



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



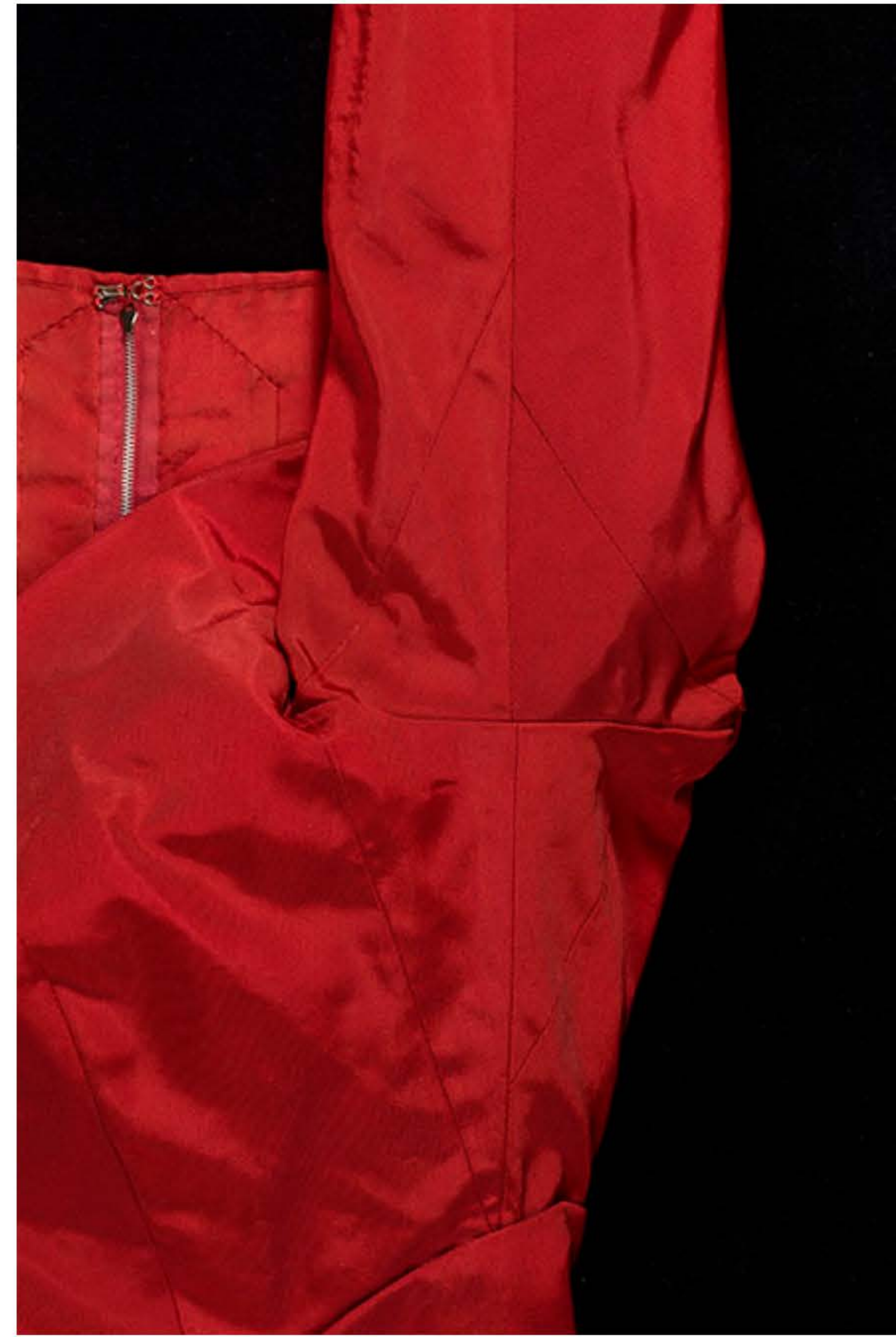
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Below: The fitted sleeve is cut in one piece with the front and back bodice. The underarm is inset with a pieced gusset to allow movement



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

