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Duchesse
AUTUMN-WINTER 1949

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Dior has taken the flying panels... and crisscrossed them like a pair of shears...by night they usually contrast in any light.

— HARPER'S BAZAAR, OCTOBER 1949

LINE

Ciseaux

OCCASION

Dinner dress

ATELIER FLOU

Marinette

MANNEQUIN

Pat

TEXTILE

Silk velvet, silk grosgrain

2018.69.1.1-2

THIS ACQUISITION WAS MADE POSSIBLE WITH THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE LOUISE HAWLEY STONE CHARITABLE TRUST, PEER REVIEW FUND. ON LOAN FROM THE ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM, TORONTO.

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Press Sketch

Press sketch of *Duchesse*, a signature of the *Ciseaux* (Scissors) line in the *Milieu du siècle* collection.

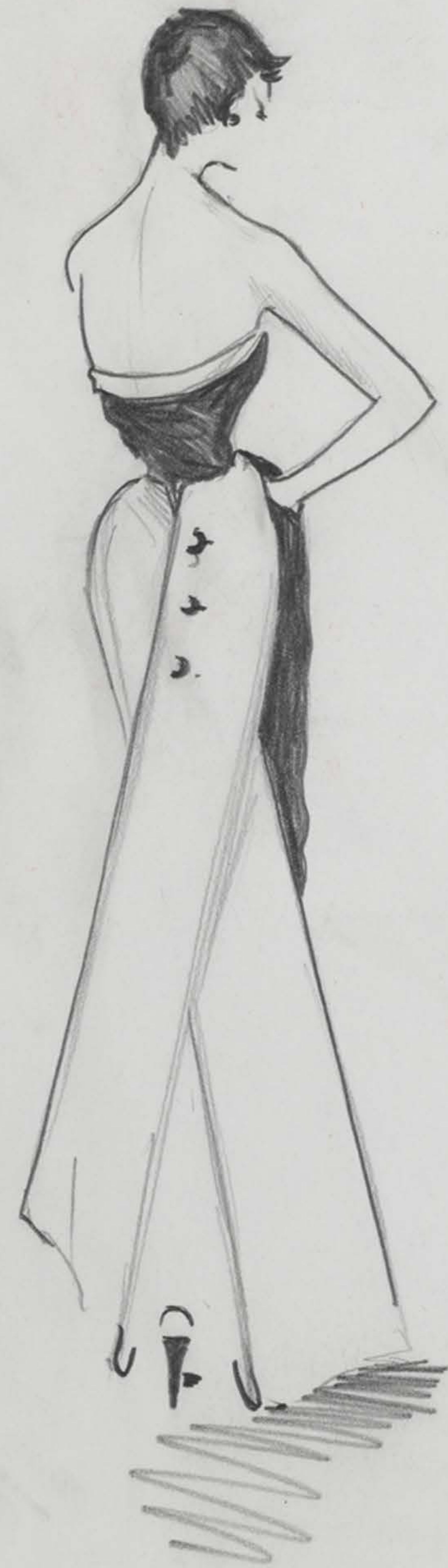
DIOR HÉRITAGE COLLECTION, PARIS

Christian Dior

30, AVENUE MONTAIGNE

PARIS - 8^e

DUCHESSE



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.

DIOR HÉRITAGE COLLECTION, PARIS



The two-piece ensemble draws inspiration from the lapels of the male tuxedo by contrasting panels of matte grosgrain against lustrous, shiny black velvet.

THE NEW YORK TIMES/REDUX

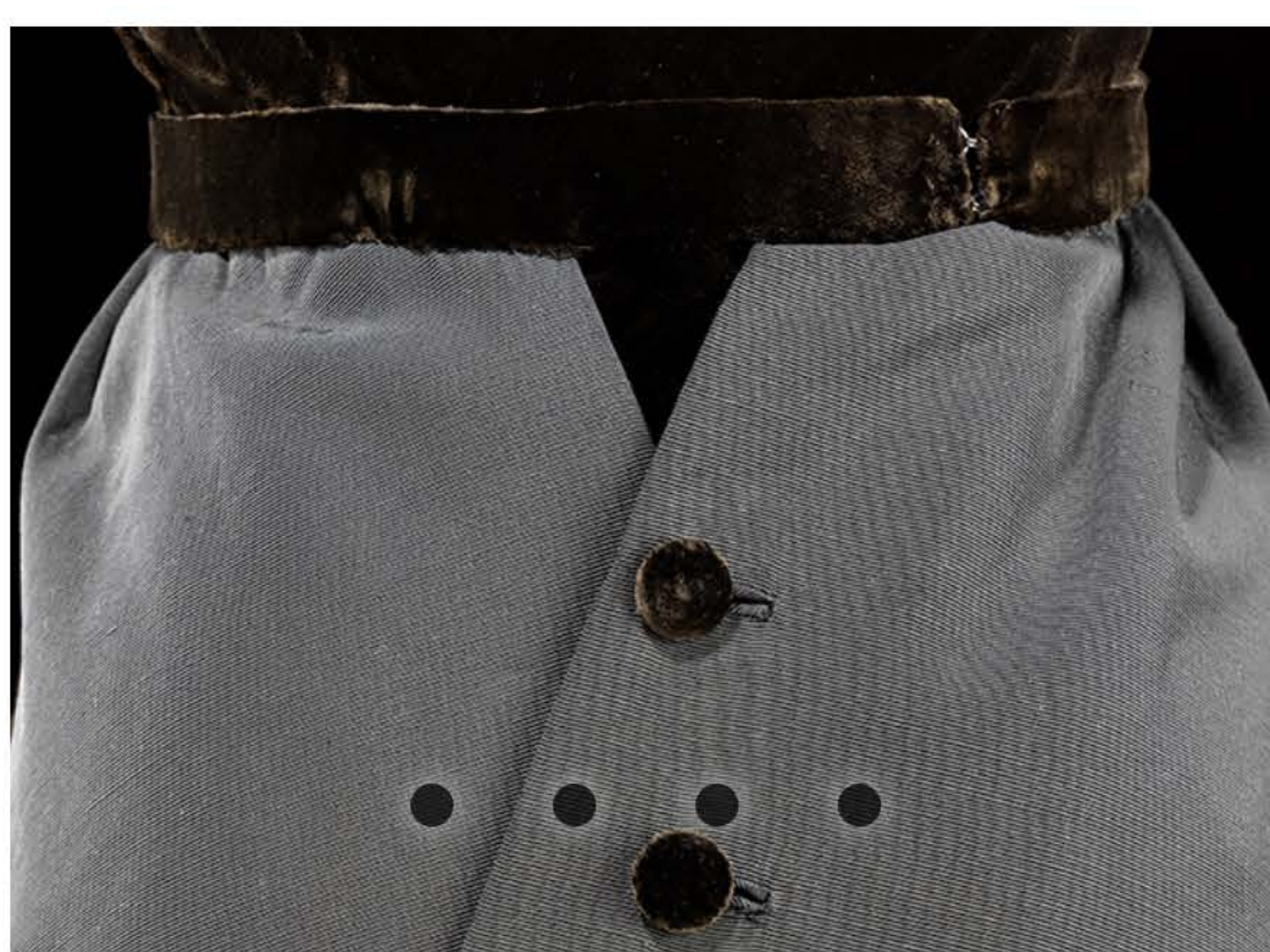
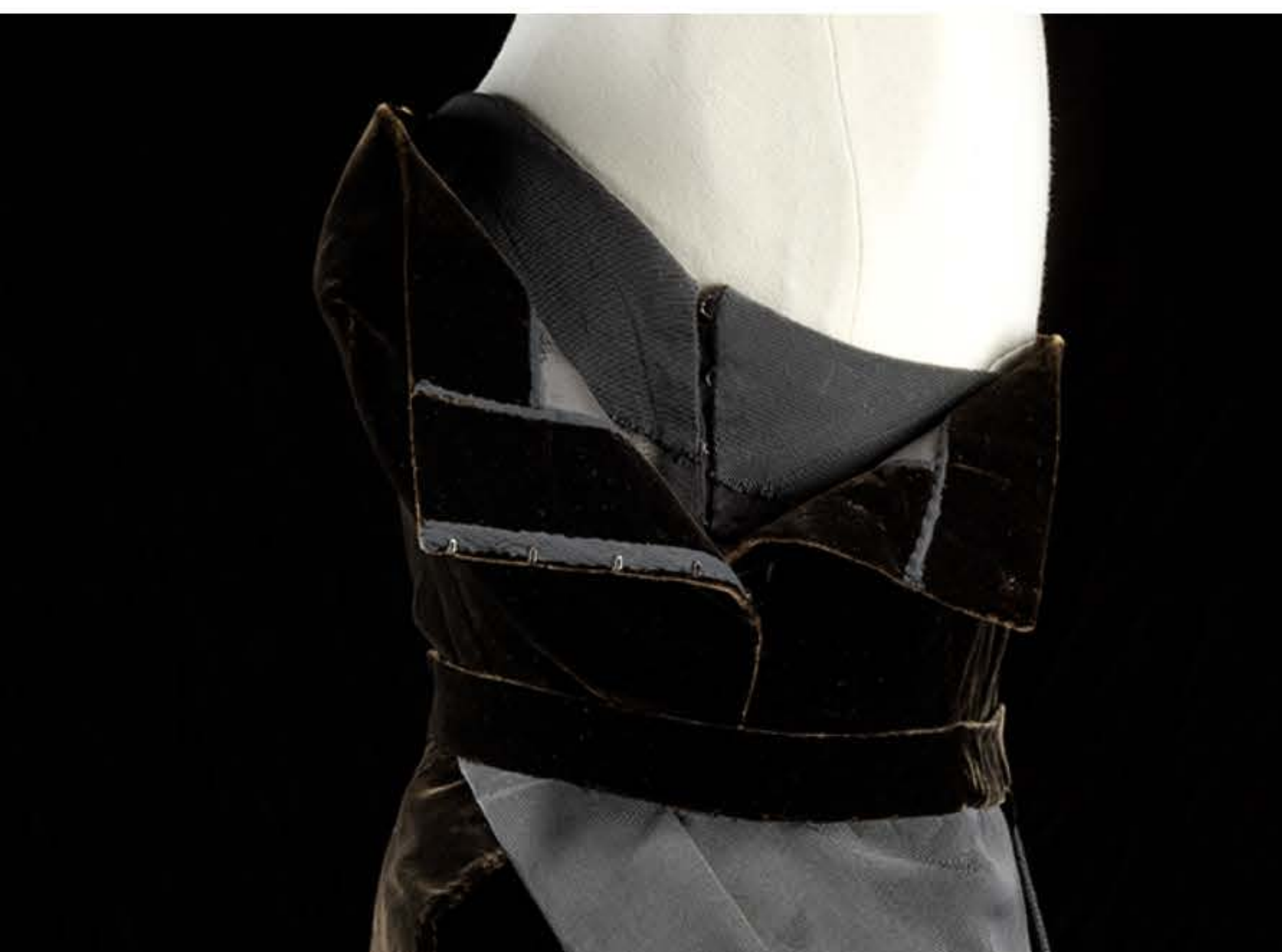
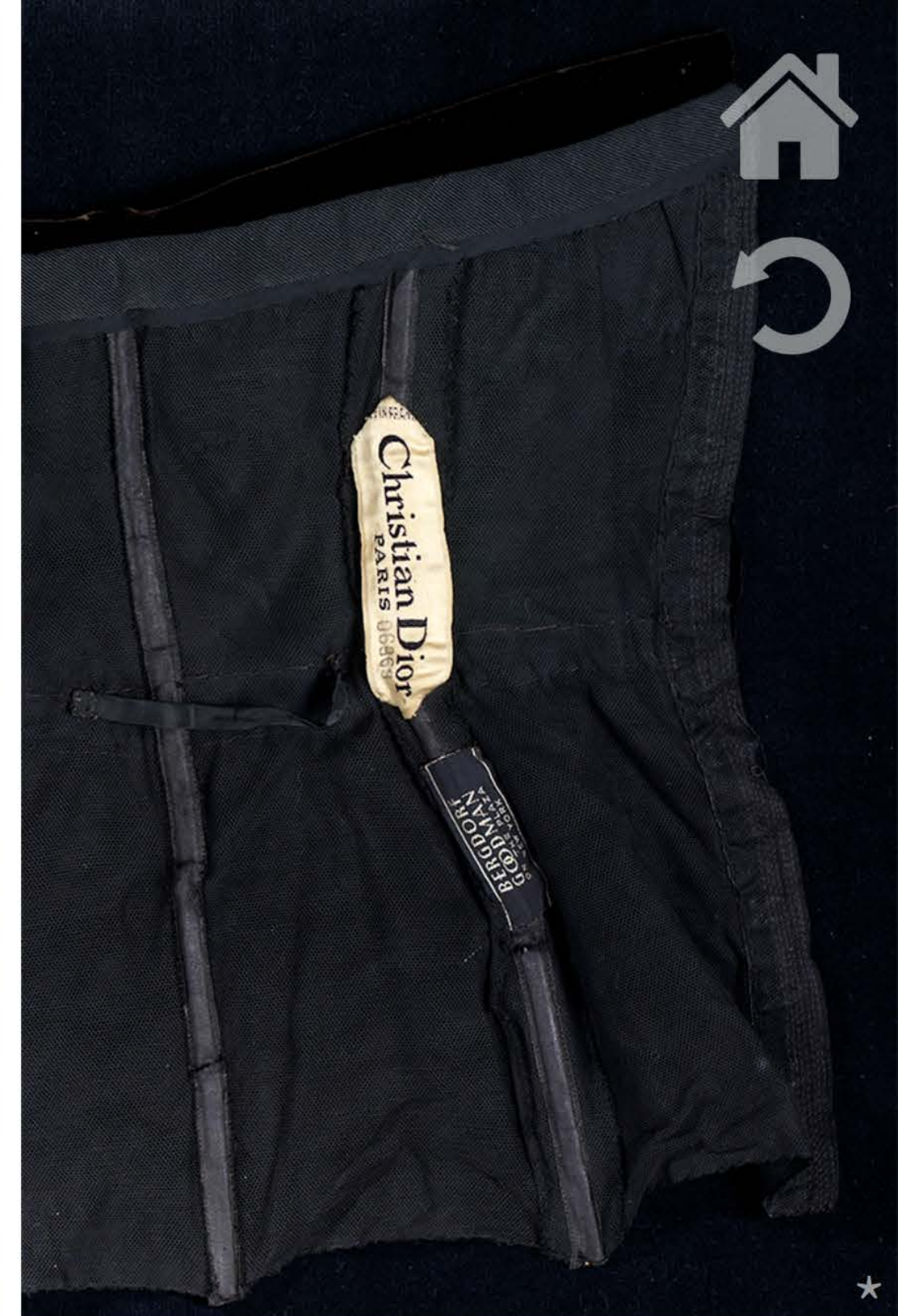


Duchesse (left) was photographed by Horst P. Horst for American *Vogue*, September 15, 1949.

HORST P. HORST, *VOGUE* © CONDE NAST



The bodice closes at the side and the skirt in the back, making it awkward – if not impossible – to dress alone.



The dress was ordered from Paris by the leading New York woman's luxury retailer, Bergdorf Goodman.