



Passion for Fashion (117)

Mon, 9th Dec 2019 GMT/BST

Lot 163

Estimate: £4000 - £6000 + Fees

A rare Balenciaga couture black gazar '4-Sided' cocktail dress, Autumn-Winter 1967-68, unlabelled, of inverted trapezoid shape with narrow tapering skirt and wing-like pleats that frame the shoulders front and back with jewelled shoulder straps, deep V-shape pleat from rear shoulders to narrow 18in-wide weighted hem, bust 86cm, 34in

WWD, 2nd August 1967 described this collection as 'Elegant, elegant, elegant...The collection is Beautiful with the Great Balenciaga Cut and Subtlety...IT'S THE OLD WORLD ELEGANCE ... and has nothing to do with the Fast Pace and Fast Living. Balenciaga is too far above and beyond the Nowgirl. He sits in another dimension.'

Phyllis Heathcote of The Guardian wrote: 'Just when it had become clever to write off the older, traditional houses, Balenciaga - one of the very few designers to date back to before the Second World War - comes up with one of the finest, one of the most exciting collections of his career', 5th August, 1967.

This dress was photographed for Harper's Bazaar, June 1967, with a large star-burst brooch worn at the centre of the bodice. The image is reproduced in 'Balenciaga', Thames & Hudson. The highly-sculpted, tapering shape makes this one of the most iconic and desirable of Balenciaga's creations.