

Fashion design



*Zandra Rhodes
Evening coat
1969*

Screen-printed felt, trimmed with bead-decorated streamers

In 1969 and the early 1970s Zandra Rhodes made a number of screen-printed felt coats and capes with immense flared or circular panels. These garments were an ideal canvas for her bright, painterly patterns. This coat was originally worn over a screen-printed chiffon hooded dress in matching colours, with a pair of yellow patent shoes by Charles Jourdain. It was worn by Irene Worth in the Royal Shakespeare Company's production of Edward Albee's play *Tiny Alice* staged at the Aldwych Theatre, London, in 1970.

The coat forms part of the Cecil Beaton Collection. This Collection was brought together by the society photographer Sir Cecil Beaton (1904-1980). With great energy and determination, Beaton contacted the well-dressed elite of Europe and North America to help create this lasting monument to the art of dress. The Collection was exhibited in 1971, accompanied by a catalogue that detailed its enormous range.

This circular coat falls from a high yoke and has a collar of inverted top stitched scallops decorated with beaded streamers. The large sleeves are elasticated at the wrists. The coat was originally worn over a screen-printed chiffon hooded dress in matching colours, and with a pair of yellow patent shoes by Charles Jourdain