

## Mending Memorable Misfits

### Margaret's Restores Classic Marilyn Monroe Dress

Recently, Margaret's The Couture Cleaner of southern California announced a groundbreaking collaboration with Julien's Auctions to professionally clean and conserve an authentic Jean Louis designer dress worn by Hollywood icon Marilyn Monroe.

The historically significant cocktail dress was worn by Monroe during the press conference for *The Misfits* during the summer of 1960. It achieved a remarkable \$65,000 sale at the celebrity memorabilia auction.

The garment was crafted by Academy Award-winning designer Jean Louis — a cream silk jersey masterpiece featuring hand-painted abstract watercolor patterns with signature circular motifs in vibrant magenta, green and brown tones (representing authentic 1960s haute fashion).

"This project exemplifies the critical partnership between auction houses and textile conservation specialists essential for preserving Hollywood's cultural heritage and vintage fashion history," said a spokesperson for Margaret's The Couture Cleaner.

The Marilyn Monroe dress presented unique restoration challenges, including age-related

discoloration and vintage fabric staining that required specialized cleaning techniques to remove imperfections without compromising the original hand-painted artwork or delicate silk jersey construction.

Margaret's, which has been around since 1953, utilized its certified textile specialists to employ proprietary vintage clothing restoration methods to address the dress's condition while maintaining its historical authenticity.

The garment's intricate construction — featuring a fitted bodice with hand-gathered pleats, expert hand-sewn waistline attachment, and original chiffon crepe lining — demanded specialized handling throughout the conservation process.

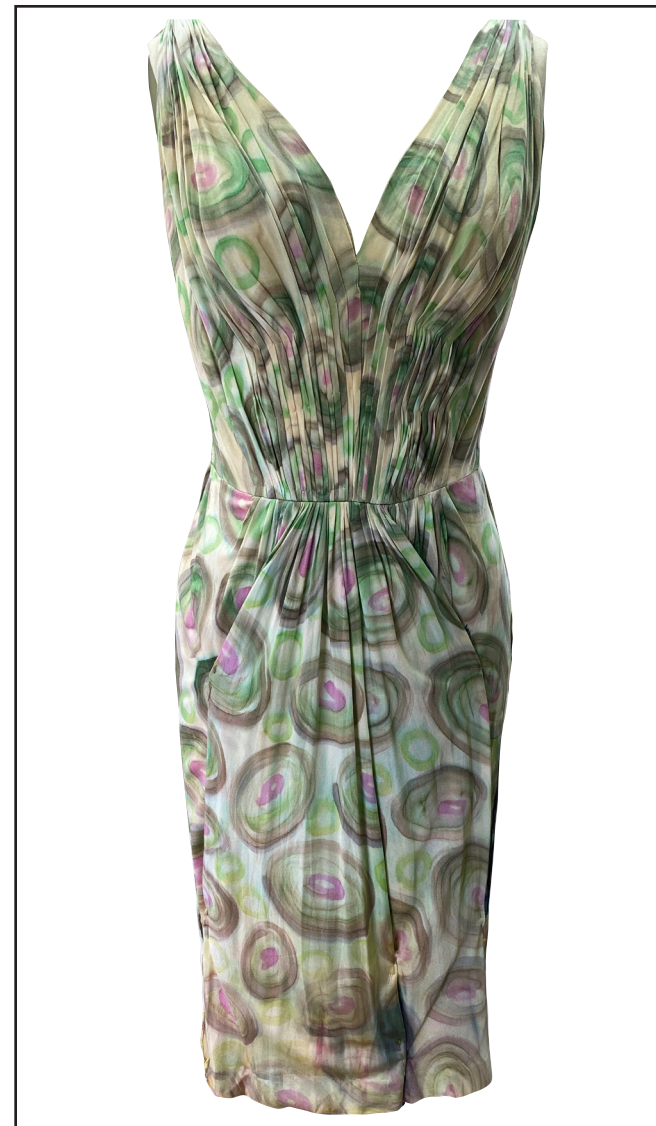
The dress retains its original Jean Louis designer label and handwritten notation "MM #2," confirming its provenance as part of Marilyn Monroe's personal wardrobe collection.

"Our partnership with Margaret's ensures every piece of celebrity memorabilia receives the specialized restoration care it deserves," noted Julien's Auctions representatives. "When handling garments of this historical significance and auction value, professional textile conservation is essential to preserving their legacy for serious collectors and fashion history enthusiasts."

The Jean Louis designer dress represents the sophisticated style evolution that defined Marilyn Monroe's later career and 1960s Hollywood glamour.

Created specifically for her to wear during *The Misfits* press conference — Monroe's final completed film in which she starred alongside Clark Gable and Montgomery Clift — this garment captures a pivotal moment in cinema history and vintage fashion.

The film, directed by John Huston and written by Arthur Miller, is now recognized as a classic



This designer dress (above) worn by Marilyn Monroe brought in \$65K at a recent celebrity memorabilia auction.



Actress Marilyn Monroe (pictured above next to Clark Gable during a publicity tour luncheon) acted in more than 30 films, but *The Misfits* by director John Huston in 1961 would be her final full length feature film.

of American cinema and a significant piece of Marilyn Monroe's filmography.

Monroe particularly favored silk jersey fabrics, and Jean Louis Berthault's design reflects his Academy Award-winning approach to costume design that transformed stars into fashion icons.

As the first costume designer to receive "Gowns By" screen credit, Jean Louis understood how to create unique garment pieces that were both cinematically effective and personally flattering — making this dress a prime example of authentic Hollywood costume design. ♦