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Hi-res images available upon request

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Grace of Monaco: Princess in Dior
On view June 11, 2022 to January 8, 2023

Fashion and mementos from the legendary life of Princess Grace of Monaco will appear in North America for the first time at Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens, celebrating her dedicated relationship with haute couturier Christian Dior.

WASHINGTON—The special exhibition *Grace of Monaco: Princess in Dior*, on view at [Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens](#) from June 11, 2022 to January 8, 2023, will explore the longstanding collaboration between Grace Kelly, Princess of Monaco, and Marc Bohan, artistic director at Christian Dior, through clothing, accessories, photos, and more, on special loan from the Palace of Monaco.

Presented in North America for the first time, the exhibition, which originated at the Musée Christian Dior in Granville, France, offers insights into the life of an icon, who crafted her image in response to Hollywood's love of glamour and later the desire for elegance in her stately duties. *Grace of Monaco* is a tribute to Bohan's muse in the 1960s and 1970s and a celebration of their enduring partnership through haute couture.

Like Kelly, Hillwood founder Marjorie Merriweather Post was a tastemaker who carefully cultivated her image, choosing smart, sophisticated pieces, and treating her apparel as she did her collections, as a connoisseur. As Hillwood interprets 20th-century fashion through Post's own collection of jewelry, accessories, and apparel, it is fitting to expand this narrative through showcasing Kelly's place in the world of 20th-century haute couture.

"We are honored to be the second home of this beautiful exhibition, sharing Kelly and Bohan's remarkable relationship, and bringing these wearable works of art to Washington," said Kate Markert, Hillwood's executive director. "We say Hillwood is 'Where fabulous lives,' and *Grace of Monaco* is nothing short of fabulous."

Princess in Dior

About one third of Kelly's wardrobe was Dior, not only because the house was so prestigious but also because she was such close friends with Bohan. According to Florence Müller, fashion historian and curator of the original exhibition, "Bohan perfectly understood her role: she needed to be stylish, but respectful of etiquette." The two, "had the same idea of elegance; she found in Bohan someone who could share her vision," Müller said. Bohan viewed Kelly as the embodiment of a style that was understated, sophisticated, in vogue, and tasteful, while she saw him as Monaco's most up-to-the-minute fashion designer. As Bohan said, "She epitomized my style, a style that caught your

attention but was never excessive." With 86 pieces from Kelly's collection on view, including pieces of jewelry not previously displayed, the exhibition will highlight their fruitful relationship in crafting and maintaining Kelly's image.

Charmed by the elegance of Bohan's designs for Dior, Kelly made appearances in tailored wool ensembles and airy pastel dresses, paired with classic accessories, such as hats for which she had a particular fondness. She had an innate sense of style, and this glimpse into her attire sheds light on the life of a legendary figure, who was both a darling of the public, and a modern, socially engaged woman. "I'm basically a feminist," Kelly once said. "I think that women can do anything they decide to do."

About Grace of Monaco

Grace Kelly (1929-1982) was a leading American actor, starring in 11 films and over 60 television productions, earning an Academy Award, and becoming a style icon for her understated glamour. Her relationship with Dior began in 1954, when she wore the 'Caracas' dress from the Spring/Summer 1954 Christian Dior-New York collection to the premiere of the film *Rear Window*. Leaving Hollywood to marry Prince Rainier III of Monaco in 1956, she was thenceforth Princess Grace of Monaco, known for her stately beauty and active in charitable and cultural work, continuing to maintain her characteristic casual chic. For her first public appearance following the engagement announcement, Kelly opted for dramatic haute couture gowns by Christian Dior, establishing herself as one of the firm's most loyal and iconic clients for the rest of her life.

About Dior

The Musée Christian Dior celebrates the life and legacy of innovative fashion designer Christian Dior (1905-1957). With a debut couture collection in Paris in 1947, Dior's fresh, feminine silhouette inspired fashion's insiders and defined women's fashion for the following decade. Named the "New Look" by *Harper's Bazaar* editor Carmel Snow, Dior's elegant designs characterized the postwar ebullience of the 1950s. His astute management and business innovations not only reinvigorated Paris as fashion's capital following the Occupation but also set precedents for today's modern business of fashion. In September 1960, Marc Bohan became artistic director, following Yves Saint Laurent from 1958-1960, after the death of Christian Dior. During his thirty-year tenure, Bohan guided the House of Dior through the modern age with reverence to its founding parameters of understated femininity.

Grace de Monaco, princesse en Dior

Grace of Monaco: Princess in Dior is based on the exhibition *Grace de Monaco, princesse en Dior* organized by the Christian Dior Museum of Granville and curated by Florence Müller, Avenir Foundation Curator of Textile Art and Fashion, Denver Art Museum.

Curator

Megan Martinelli became Hillwood's assistant curator of apparel, jewelry, and accessories in January 2018. Previously, Megan was a research assistant at The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute, where she contributed to internal object assessment research and assisted with exhibitions including *China: Through the Looking Glass* (2015) and *Manus x Machina: Fashion in an Age of Technology* (2016). Before joining The Met, Megan curated an exhibition titled *The Other White Dress: Non-Wedding Dresses of the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries* (2014) at the University of Rhode Island's Historic Textile Gallery and contributed to *Artist, Rebel, Dandy: Men of Fashion* (2013) at The RISD Museum of Art. At Hillwood, she was the curator of *Mid-Century Master: The Photography of Alfred Eisenstaedt* (2019) and *Roaring Twenties: The Life and Style of Marjorie Merriweather Post* (2021). Megan holds a MS in historic textiles and costumes from the University of Rhode Island and a BA in English literature from Providence College.

Events and Programs

Grace of Monaco: Princess in Dior will inspire an array of programs and events throughout the presentation of the exhibition.

A benefit celebration will be held on Tuesday, June 7, 2022. Inspired by Marjorie Post's grand affairs at Hillwood, the evening will include cocktails and a glamorous dinner on the Lunar Lawn in honor of Post's singular style and in support of Hillwood's mission to share her cultural treasure with future generations.

In October, a four-part lecture series will delve deeper into the world of 20th-century fashion.

Press Preview

A press breakfast and preview is planned for Tuesday, June 7, 2022. Invitation to follow.

Exhibition Sponsors

Grace of Monaco: Princess in Dior is supported by The Marjorie Merriweather Post Foundation, Northern Trust, Ellen MacNeille Charles, Ms. Nedenia Rumbough and Mr. Jan Roosenburg, Janice and Ralph Shrader, Kyra Cheremeteff and Thomas W. Richardson, and Mr. and Mrs. Ronald N. Slimp II. All exhibitions and programs are funded in part by the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts through the National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs program. This project was supported by the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities.

About Hillwood

When art collector, businesswoman, social figure, and philanthropist Marjorie Merriweather Post left to the public her northwest Washington, D.C. estate, she endowed the country with the most comprehensive collection of [Russian imperial art](#) outside of Russia, an [exquisite 18th-century French decorative art collection](#), and 25 acres of serene landscaped gardens and natural woodlands. Opened as a public institution in 1977, today Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens offers a gracious

and immersive experience unlike any other. Highlights of the collection include Fabergé eggs, Russian porcelain, Russian orthodox icons, Beauvais tapestries, and Sèvres porcelain, and Post's personal collection of apparel, accessories, and jewelry. Thirteen acres of enchanting formal gardens include a [Japanese-style garden](#), [rose garden](#), [French parterre](#), and an orchid-filled [greenhouse](#).

General Information

Location: 4155 Linnean Avenue, NW, Washington, DC
Metro: Van Ness/UDC, Red Line (20-minute walk)

Information/Tickets: 202-686-5807 for information or www.HillwoodMuseum.org
[Facebook.com/HillwoodMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/HillwoodMuseum)

Hours: Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Mondays, most holidays, and for several weeks in January.

Café: [Merriweather Café](#) is open Tuesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Merriweather To Go, featuring a quick selection of sandwiches, salads, snacks, and beverages, is available Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Suggested Donation: \$18, \$15 seniors, \$10 college students, \$5 for visitors age 6 to 18. No donation is suggested for children under 6. Adults and seniors receive \$3 off the suggested donation for weekday visits and \$1 off for weekend visits when reservations are made online. Members receive free admission to visit the estate during regular operating hours. To join visit <http://www.hillwoodmuseum.org/join> For more information visit <http://www.hillwoodmuseum.org/hours-and-tickets>

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