**Zandra Rhodes**

(1940, Great Britain)

From 1959 to 1961 she lived in Kent where she studied at the Medway College of Art while her mother worked as teacher and tailor in a French fashion house. Between 1961 and 1964 Zandra Rhodes studied at the Royal College of Art, School of Textile and Design in London. She created her first personal collection in 1969 and she could open her own shop, at the beginning, in the West End of London and later in Bond Street. In 1984 the publisher Jonathan Cape edited *The Art of Zandra Rhodes*. Ten years later the Queen Elisabeth admired the Zandra Rhodes statue at the National Portrait Gallery in London, made by the sculptor Andrew Logan. In 1995 Zandra opened an own studio in California to develop some interior design projects. A year later she started the project *The Fashion and Textile Museum* in order to commemorate fashion and textile British designers from the Sixties to the Eighties. In 1997 she was invested with the order of the British Empire. In 2001 she drew stage costumes for the Mozart’s opera *The Magic Flute*, the theatrical season opening at the Opera Theatre in San Diego, United States. In 2002 Zandra Rhodes collected money for the Fashion and Textile Museum with Vogue Vintage Fair which was officially inaugurated in 2003. Two years later the show *Zandra Rhodes – A lifelong love affair with textile* was opened in London. In the same years the cooperation between Zandra Rhodes and San Diego Opera continued and, in 2004, she drew stage costumes for Biset’s opera *Les pêcheurs de perles*, for the Verdi’s opera *Aida* at the Houston Grand Opera and at the English National Opera. In 2006 Zandra portrayed herself in the soap opera *The Archers* of BBC Radio 4. She was named Chancellor of the University for the Creative Arts in 2009 in Great Britain and, in the same year, the department store Marks and Spencers sold her collection.