

APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES

Christian Louboutin teams with Indian couturier for one-of-a-kind capsule

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The Deep Sleep for Beauty graphic novel was created to promote The Christian Louboutin x Sabyasachi capsule. Image credit: Christian Louboutin

By STAFF REPORTS

Footwear designer Christian Louboutin is traveling from Paris to Kolkata, India to present an exclusive, ultra-limited-edition capsule collection for men and women.

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Christian Louboutin's latest project sees the footwear brand partner with Indian haute couture designer Sabyasachi Mukherjee, a favorite of Bollywood stars. The capsule, which marks the third collaboration between the two designers, includes one-of-a-kind and some made-to-measure styles in sari fabrics from Mr. Mukherjee's personal collection.

Silk sari scarps and shoes

Mr. Louboutin and Mr. Mukherjee met by chance while the footwear designer was visiting the couturier's boutique in Mumbai. The pair quickly became friends due to their shared love of Indian culture, craftsmanship, food and their "boundless creativity."

Often working with his close personal friends ([see story](#)), in July 2015, Mr. Louboutin collaborated with Mr. Mukherjee to create the shoes worn during Sabyasachi's couture show held in Mumbai. The following year in October 2016, the pair worked together on a small number of handbags to pair with the shoes.



Christian Louboutin with Sabyasachi Mukherjee. Image credit: Christian Louboutin, photo by Guillaume-Fandel

After these collaborations, Mr. Louboutin visited Mr. Mukherjee at home in Kolkata where he was shown the couturier's private archive of saris and ribbons, essentially a collection of discarded, yet treasured, trimmings. Here, Mr. Louboutin was instantly inspired saying, "Let's make the embroideries into shoes that can dance into the light."

The resulting capsule includes 15 women's styles including the "Tall and Deep," a thigh-high boot with delicate leather strips that harness and highlight the leg. Christian Louboutin x Sabyasachi Tall and Deep will be available worldwide as an exclusive, made-to-measure item.



Christian Louboutin x Sabyasachi Tall and Deep. Image credit: Christian Louboutin, photo by Guillaume-Fandel

For men, Christian Louboutin selected four iconic styles from his portfolio such as the Dandelion loafer. The shoe has been given the "Sabyasachi magic touch" with an embroidered toe-cap similar to footwear worn during an Indian wedding ceremony.

The Christian Louboutin x Sabyasachi capsule also includes an edit of evening bags. The Piloutin, for example, was created from Mr. Mukherjee's sari ribbon collection while the Poupette handbag is adorned with embroidered ribbons and crystals.



Christian Louboutin x Sabyasachi The Piloutin handbag. Image credit: Christian Louboutin, photo by Guillaume-Fandel

"Indian handicraft is the best of the best in the world," Mr. Louboutin said, in a statement shared to his brand's Web site. "The luxuriance of Indian workmanship is at the maximum.

"I would love the world outside of Indian to love it as I do," he said.

To promote the capsule collection, Christian Louboutin has created a graphic novel titled "Deep Sleep for Beauty." The graphic novel tells of a Bollywood actress who is put under a spell which only Mr. Louboutin and Mr. Mukherjee can free her from.

The graphic novel and collection will appear on both designer's social media accounts and Web sites.

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