

Chanel 1997 Byzantine Collection runway brooch

£795



REF: 7117

Height: 8 cm (3.1")

Width: 8 cm (3.1")

Depth: 2 cm (0.8")

Description

A Chanel 1997 Byzantine Collection runway brooch of tumbled rock crystal and pearls.

The Chanel Byzantine Collection, also known as the Paris-Byzance Métiers d'Art Collection, is a lavish tribute to the grandeur of the Byzantine Empire. Designed by Karl Lagerfeld, it draws inspiration from Empress Theodora and the shimmering mosaics of Ravenna.

The Chanel "Byzantine" runway jewellery evokes the lavish artistry and spiritual grandeur of the Eastern Roman Empire. Pieces are richly ornamented, often showing heavy gold plating, intricate open-work medallions, coin-like pendants, filigree crosses, and hammered gilt surfaces. The Byzantine theme threads through Chanel's archives via Gripoix glass cabochons, seed-pearls, faux jewels and textured "coin" motifs, recalling both sacred iconography and ornamental splendour. Much of this jewellery was shaped under Karl Lagerfeld's direction, who revisited and reinterpreted Chanel's early works-especially those originally overseen by Robert Goossens.

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