

Withers LLP represents the future of UK fashion as LVMH invests in Nicholas Kirkwood and JW Anderson

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International law firm Withers LLP remains at the forefront of the luxury sector, closing investment deals for leading young British fashion designers Nicholas Kirkwood and JW Anderson.

Luxury goods conglomerate LVMH has acquired a majority stake in Nicholas Kirkwood's brand and has taken a minority stake in JW Anderson. Alongside these ground-breaking deals, which mark LVMH's first investment in young British fashion businesses, Withers also advised on Jonathan Anderson's appointment as Creative Director of Spanish fashion house Loewe, which is part of the LVMH group.

Nicholas Kirkwood studied at Central Saint Martins and Cordwainers and launched his business in 2005. JW Anderson launched his business in 2008 and, most recently, designed a capsule collection for Versace brand Versus on which Withers also advised.

Withers Consultant and luxury brands specialist Hugh Devlin acted as primary strategic adviser on the deal. Hugh led Withers' specialist luxury brands team, which included Claire Pardo and Graham Webster, Emilie Pounds, Robert Posgate, Celia Davidson and Libby Payne and, in Italy, Roberta Crivellaro and Stefano Cignozzi.

Commenting on the deal, Hugh Devlin said:

'These investments demonstrate that the international investment world continues to look to Britain for creative talent and is prepared to put its financial power behind them. We are confident that more investment deals in the creative sector will be announced in the coming months.'

Anthony Indaimo, Co-Head of Withers' Luxury Brands Group added:

'We are proud to have assisted and been involved in yet another high-profile transaction in one of the firm's key industry sectors and one that continues to show strong client growth and investor interest, particularly in and from Asia. With Hugh's pre-eminent reputation as trusted strategic adviser to creative talent, our international platform and more than 30 years experience in advising some of the world's household names, we look forward to 2014 and to continuing to contribute to the success of our brands clients.'

Notes for editors

Withers has a long and successful track record of advising on transactions in the luxury brands sector and representing creative talent for more than 30 years. Most recently, the firm advised on Kering's acquisition of a majority stake in Christopher Kane's business. Other highlights include representing Anya Hindmarch on the investment by Mayhoola into her eponymous brand; Ali Hewson and Bono on the LVMH investment into their ethical clothing label Edun; the acquisition by Italian's menswear designer Pal Zileri of its Asian majority joint venture partner; the acquisition by Vivienne Westwood of its franchisee network; the investment into men's Haute Couture label Billionaire; as well as the proposed US\$1bn capital raise on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange for the founder and majority shareholder of a world renowned ultra luxury brand.

Authors

Hugh Devlin

CONSULTANT | LONDON

Corporate

 +44 20 7597 6018

 hugh.devlin@withersworldwide.com

Anthony Indaimo

PARTNER | MILAN, LONDON

Corporate

 +39 02 8821 4200 (Milan) +65 6922 4518
(Singapore)

 anthony.indaimo@withersworldwide.com

Ben Simpson

SPECIAL COUNSEL | LONDON

Corporate

 +44 20 7597 6136

 ben.simpson@withersworldwide.com