



PRESS RELEASE

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Museum of Bags and Purses exhibits stainless steel bags by Wendy Stevens

From 24 August – 17 October 2010

From 24 August to 17 October the Museum of Bags and Purses in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, will be exhibiting the new collection of the American designer Wendy Stevens. All her bags are made from stainless steel combined with leather and other metals. With this exhibition, the museum wants to be surprise and inspire visitors. Stevens demonstrates that unusual materials make beautiful bags.

Using stainless steel as the basic material for a bag influences its form and durability, while the combination with leather makes the bags user-friendly and functional. But what makes Stevens' designs striking is the extensive range of sizes, shapes and metals. In addition, the metal in each bag is wrought in a different way, making each item unique. Since she started designing bags, the originality of Stevens' designs have attracted the attention of fashion and design magazines all over the world.

With this exhibition, the Museum of Bags and Purses aims to show its public the wide range of shapes, materials and designs in bags. Wendy Stevens is original in her use of stainless steel and delivers a handmade product. Sigrid Ivo, director of the Museum of Bags and Purses: "In the 1920s bags were made of aluminium, but nowadays bags are predominantly made of leather and fabric. That's what makes Stevens so original. The combination of leather with stainless steel and the beautiful finishing. I hope visitors to the exhibition will be surprised; I would like to show them that beautiful bags can be made by using unconventional materials."

Wendy Stevens

Stevens, a trained teacher, started designing bags purely as an experiment in 1983, developing a fascination for sheet metal. She scoured iron-dealers and industrial estates in search of materials she could work with, and started out making belts, frames, desk accessories and lighting. While working in a New York nightclub, she noticed the lack of a small, durable bag just big enough to hold their small change, driving license and lipstick. That's where the idea started to design stainless steel bags. Since a fire destroyed her workshop in 2004, she has been focussing on what she does best: making bags. Stevens' bags are made by hand in a small production facility near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The Museum of Bags and Purses

The Museum of Bags and Purses exhibits the history of the western bag from the Middle Ages through to the present day. The unique collection celebrates the bag in all its forms, functions, materials and trimmings. Each bag tells the story of social developments, styles in the applied arts and fashion through the ages. In addition to the permanent, historical collection, themed exhibitions are held regularly, and the museum organises exhibitions of contemporary designers from home and abroad. The Museum of Bags and Purses is the only museum in the world with such a comprehensive and specialised collection of bags.



Rigatoni
Wendy Stevens



Le Fan



Shoulder Bag

Note to the editor, not for publication

For more information, interview requests, or for permission to use images, contact the Museum of Bags and Purses, Katherine Knowles: 020 524 64 52 / k.knowles@tassenmuseum.nl

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Visit our new website on: www.museumofbagsandpurses.com

Open every day from 10.00-17.00 hrs.