

HOUSTON CHRONICLE

Sunday, February 22, 2015 | HoustonChronicle.com and Chron.com | Vol. 114, No. 132 | \$2.50 (\$3 in selected areas) ★★ Chance of rain, High 66, Low 38

STYLE BITS

Houston native Hayden Lasher puts luxury in a bag

For Hayden Lasher, fashion roots run deep. So do her Texas ones.

The fifth-generation Texan and Houston native is the great-grandniece to Henri Bendel, the late Louisiana milliner who launched the luxury retail brand.

In 2014, Lasher, 28, launched her own collection of luxury handbags in collaboration with Belgian Shoes, which was founded by Bendel's nephew and produces one loafer style in many colors and fabrics.

"Fashion, style and art were always part of the landscape growing up," said Lasher, who now lives in New York.

Her bag collection takes a similar approach: one style in eight colors. For spring, she offers a bag in pebbled gray leather with gray patent piping and a hint of aubergine, among other rich colors.

Lasher searches for the best skins from ostrich to crocodile for her bags, with each style made in New York. The limited-edition bags have a cellphone pocket, key ring and the Belgian signature bow. They also retail for \$1,500 each, exclusively at Belgian Shoes in New York and at haydenlasher.com.

Lasher said she's always had a fondness for accessories.

After attending the Kinkaid School, Lasher graduated from the University of Southern California with a business degree and Parsons The New School of Design with a fashion degree.

She later interned at Michael Kors, Marc by Marc Jacobs and designed shoes and bags for the late Oscar de la Renta.

Of de la Renta, she said: "If it was silent in the studio, he'd start singing. He was there every day in the studio. He had an incredible work ethic."

Lasher's bags have been featured in Women's Wear Daily and Vanity Fair, which called it "Heaven in a Bag."

Even Taylor Swift has been spotted carrying one.



Dan Carter

Joy Sewing



Hayden Lasher photos