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Hand & Lock Collaborate with Luxury Brands on Charity Project *The Embellished Handbag*

London, United Kingdom, January 2017 - Hand & Lock announce collaboration with luxury brands on “The Embellished Handbag” to raise funds for charity. With the goal of promoting and celebrating the art of craftsmanship, this project fuses the renowned Hand & Lock embroidery with thirteen different brand aesthetics to produce an array of uniquely embellished handbags. The bags will be auctioned at Grosvenor house by Sotheby’s in December 2017, where proceeds will go to The Hand & Lock Prize For Embroidery and British charity QEST.

Drawing inspiration from their brand history, each of the thirteen brands brings to life a visual identity rooted in their unique aesthetic. Brands involved in the project include French brand Agnes B, Alfie Douglas, Aspinal, Asprey, BVS Design, Globe Trotter, House of Holland, American brand Jill Haber, Lost Property of London, Lulu Guinness, Patrick Cox, The Cambridge Satchel Company and Vivienne Westwood.

Hand & Lock have been producing the world’s finest hand embroidery since 1767 specialising in embroidery for the Royal Forces, the Royal Family, fashion houses and private commissions. This year Hand & Lock will celebrate 250 years of embroidery by embarking on a world tour to Sydney, Chicago and London with a series of special conferences and exhibitions. Demonstrating that embroidery is not just rooted in the past but thriving in the present, all three exhibitions will include a special exhibit of the specially commissioned one-of-a-kind designer handbags from the “The Embellished Handbag.”

"We're honoured to be working with such talented and enthusiastic designers for this project and thrilled to be working with renowned charity QEST" said Jessica Pile, Production Director at Hand & Lock. "This collaboration has really captured the beauty, intricacy and fun energy of each brand and combined the individual identities in a harmonious way. We are so excited to reveal these bags to the world."

To unveil the collection, Hand & lock are hosting a launch event at the Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A) in London on February 1st, 2017. The event will showcase the project and preview the limited edition handbag pieces for the very first time.

-ENDS-

Editors Notes:

About Hand & Lock

Hand & Lock have been producing the world's finest hand embroidery since 1767. From Civilian and Military Regalia through to Ecclesiastical and Couture, they specialise in bespoke, individually crafted embroidery. Hand & Lock will be celebrating 250 years of embroidery in 2017 with a series of special conferences and exhibitions in Sydney, Chicago and London. <http://handembroidery.com/about/250-years-global-celebration>

About Hand & Lock Prize for Embroidery

The Annual Hand & Lock Prize for Embroidery was established in 2000 to give new designers, interested in embroidery, the opportunity to showcase their talents and gain vital exposure and experience. Over a decade later the Prize receives thousands of entries from fashion students and talented enthusiasts from all over the world. Former winners have gone on to start their own successful business or work in the industry for top design houses. <http://handembroidery.com/the-prize/>

About QEST

QEST is an organisation at the forefront of supporting education and excellence in craft in the UK. We are striving to make a difference to the lives and careers of crafts people whilst maintaining the very highest standards in craftsmanship. We fund talented people, whether at entry level into the industry via our QEST Apprenticeship Scheme, or when they are trying to reach a level of excellence further into their career, via our QEST Scholar awards. Every single recipient of a scholarship, over the past twenty-six years, acknowledge that QEST provided the essential turning point in their careers.

About Sotheby's

Sotheby's is an innovative global art business serving the most discerning clients. Auctioneers since 1744, today Sotheby's is so much more, offering clients extraordinary opportunities to transact: S|2 private sales galleries, worldwide selling exhibitions, retail wine and diamonds, financing, art education and digital engagement anytime, anywhere, on any device. We bring a world of art to a new world.

About The Embellished Handbag

'The Embellished Handbag: A Celebration of 250 years of Fashion and Embroidery' showcases Hand & Lock's collaborations with a selection of internationally renowned luxury accessory companies which feature an array of one of a kind, uniquely embellished handbags.

About "The Embellished Handbag" Partners

Agnes B - A french fashion designer renowned for timeless garments, offering some irresistible favourite pieces throughout the changing year. Agnes B provides both men and women with the perfect wardrobe, a wardrobe to suit any personality, a timeless wardrobe that grows up with its wearer and never becoming dated. <http://europe.agnesb.com/en/>

Alfie Douglas - Deliberately simple. Minimalistic. Distinctive. Unisex. Handmade by individuals for individuals. Alfie Douglas, a British brand launched in 2014, embodies the spirit of minimalism and simplicity. Alfie Douglas is uniquely built around a family and their individual creative instincts. Ethically sourcing all components and hand producing at its studio in London, England, the brand consistently creates stunning collections, that include everything from oversized totes, backpacks and duffle bags to camera cases and tool-kit covers. From work to play and all in between, an Alfie Douglas design follows the wearer in a perfectly practical and stylist manner on any and every adventure. <https://alfiedouglas.com/>

Asprey - Ever since the house was founded in 1781, Asprey has continuously defined British luxury on the basis of its core values of quality, refinement and innovation. In addition to its outstanding silver, crystal and leather collections, Asprey has grown to take a premier position in the jewellery industry and also offers the most exquisite timepieces by partnering recently with Bovet 1822 and Rolex. <http://www.asprey.com/>

Aspinal - Aspinal of London is the quintessential English luxury lifestyle brand offering womens designer handbags & purses, mens wallets & luxury leather gifts. The company is founded on the fundamental premise of offering customers the most beautiful, elegant and refined designs of superior quality - to enjoy for a lifetime. <https://www.aspinaloflondon.com/>

BVS Design - BVS Design creates some of the most luxuriously beautiful, yet practical handbags and accessories available. The unique design of the handbag collection centres on exceptional build quality, functionality and adaptability. The made to order BVS Bespoke Grafton handbags and travel bags were launched in 2014 and included in an exhibition curated by David Linley and Scott Simpson titled: "A Celebration of British Design, Craftsmanship, Engineering and Innovation". As one of 17 hand-picked British brands, the exhibition brought together brands that are renowned for the design and creation of fine objects including McLaren Automotive, Lock & Co Hatters, John Lobb of St James's and Bremont Watches. <http://www.bvs-design.com/>

Globe Trotter - Synonymous with great British design, Globe-Trotter is a luxury travel lifestyle brand producing handcrafted luggage and leather collections. Established in 1897 by David Nelken in Saxony Germany, the company moved to the UK in 1932 where it has remained ever since. Today, all Globe-Trotter suitcases and travel accessories are handcrafted in Hertfordshire, England by highly skilled artisans using original manufacturing methods and machinery that date back to the Victorian era. For 120 years the brand philosophy has remained unchanged: an uncompromising integrity of craftsmanship. <https://www.globe-trotter.com/>

House of Holland - Catapulted into the fashion limelight in 2006 with his fashion t-shirts, Henry designs with a London girl aesthetic in mind and is continually inspired by the variety of attitudes, cultures and mind-sets that exist throughout the UK capital. The House of Holland girl is cool, confident and savvy and wears labels without letting them wear her. House of Holland now boasts an impressive roster of international premium stockists. <https://www.houseofholland.co.uk/>

Jill Haber - Launched in 2012, Jill Haber is a collection of luxury handbags echoing the spirit of fashion history, re imagined for today's modern woman. Using luxurious exotic skins, fine Italian leathers and custom designed hardware, each piece is handcrafted in New York City. <http://www.jillhaber.com/>

Lost Property of London - Lost Property Of London is an independent luxury accessories brand formed by Central Saint Martins graduate Katy Bell. Handcrafted in London, sustainability is at the heart of LPOL. We are careful to make sure our supply chain and business practice is as clean as possible and are proud to operate on zero waste principles. <http://lostpropertyoflondon.com/>

Lulu Guinness - Lulu Guinness was founded in 1989 when it's then 29 year old creative director and founder created a forward thinking briefcase for women. The brand's sophisticated silhouettes, humorous embellishments and adventurous accessories have become cult favourites around the globe. The central motif, the distinctive Dali-esque lips clutch, remains the brand's staple accessory, transporting the Surrealist art movement into mainstream pop culture. <https://www.luluguinness.com/>

Patrick Cox - Patrick Cox is a Canadian-British fashion designer and an eponymous fashion label specializing in the creation of shoes, leather goods and accessories. Cox is most noted for the use of unusual materials and a mixture of avant-garde and traditional styles. <https://patrickcox.edittokyo.com/>

The Cambridge Satchel Company - The Cambridge Satchel Company is a British company that produces satchels and other leather goods. The company was founded in 2008, in Cambridge, England, by Julie Deane and her mother Freda Thomas as a way to pay private school fees for Deane's children. <https://www.cambridgesatchel.com/en-gb>

Vivienne Westwood - Dame Vivienne Isabel Westwood is a British fashion designer and businesswoman, largely responsible for bringing modern punk and new wave fashions into the mainstream. <http://www.viviennewestwood.com/en-gb>

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