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## INDEPENDENT HANDBAG DESIGNER AWARDS ANNOUNCED

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Best Student-Made Handbag by Si Kim of South Korea, London Collge of Fashion

NEW YORK-- Handbag Designer 101 and InStyle announced the winners of the fourth annual Independent Handbag Designer Awards (IHDA), held at Parsons The New School for Design. Founded by handbag designer resource Handbag Designer 101, IHDA was created to celebrate independent and up-and-coming handbag design and creativity from the United States and around the world. Currently, it is the only international design competition of its kind.

For this year's competition, more than 900 designers sent in submissions, and eight winners were named in eight different categories. Catherine Meyer of FOLLIS won for Best Handbag in Overall Style and Design. The competition also added an "Audience Fan Favorite" category, with more than 212,000 votes cast on InStyle.com, Veronica Suarez of EXEX Handbags by Veronica S. won.

Tim Gunn, CEO of Liz Claiborne presented the ICONOCLAST Award to Deborah Lloyd, co-president and creative director of kate spade new york. The September issue of InStyle will feature the winning handbags.

Winners included:



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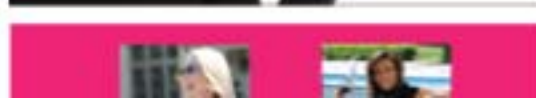


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(above, left) **Best Handbag in Overall Style and Design:** Catherine Meyer, USA, FOLLIS  
 (above, right) **Best Green Handbag** (Made from sustainable, recycled or organic materials: Andrew Krumholz, USA, Escama Studio



(above, left) **Audience Fan Favorite:** Veronica Suarez, USA, EXEX Handbags by Veronica S.  
 (above, right) **Most Socially Responsible Handbag** (Meets certain ethical and moral standards in regard to production, employment and philanthropy while impacting the local culture): Dalia Pascal, Mexico, Dalia Pascal



(above) **Best Use of CRYSTALLIZED™ - Swarovski Elements Handbag** (Use of crystallized – Swarovski Elements in a sketch): Aimee Kestenberg, Australia, Tammi Tales

(pictured at top of page) **Best Student-Made Handbag** (Designed by students who started their lines while still in school): Si Kim, South Korea, Morpholision, London College of Fashion

Other industry notables in attendance included Ariel Foxman, editor of InStyle; Steven Kolb, executive director of the Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA); Simon Collins, dean of fashion, Parsons The New School for Design and Claudia Poccia, global president of mark.™

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