

COMMERCE

## Phoebe Philo rumored leaving Cline

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*Celine spring/summer 2015 campaign image*

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By STAFF REPORTS

Cline is reportedly the latest house to part with its head designer, potentially adding to the game of hypothetical musical chairs happening within the fashion industry as insiders try to determine players' next moves.

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According to [The Fashion Law](#), Cline's Phoebe Philo will be stepping down from her position as creative director of the LVMH-owned label following the brand's fall/winter 2016 runway show in March. The design talent's impact on the fashion industry has extended far past the labels she has worked for, making her potential movement a hot topic.

### Speculation starter

Ms. Philo is credited with upping the cool factor of Cline since her hire in 2008, taking the previously overlooked house and turning it into a coveted and buzzed-about label. Her influence extends further, with her clean aesthetic and it-bag shapes, including the trapezoidal luggage tote, influencing mass market brand design and copycats.

The designer began her career at Chlo in 1997 with peer Stella McCartney.

Ms. Philo's reason for leaving Cline may have to do with wanting to be closer to her family. She has disrupted the norm in some ways, often choosing her family over work, as the first female creative director to take maternity leave. During a pregnancy in 2012, she chose to stage a presentation for Cline instead of the brand's normal runway show.



*Cline luggage tote*

In August, the New York Post's Page Six reported that the designer was in talks with competing luxury conglomerate Richemont. The Fashion Law says the designer's next position will most likely be at Azzedine Alaïa.

If Ms. Philo does leave Cline, she will become one of a growing list of fashion designers without a house. This will likely spur more conversation surrounding the movement of fashion's top players.

After their departures from Christian Dior and Lanvin, the fashion industry is buzzing with anticipation for what's next for the careers of Raf Simons and Alber Elbaz.

While their exits from their respective fashion houses differ greatly, with Mr. Simons stepping down at Dior for personal reasons and Mr. Elbaz being ousted after directional differences at Lanvin, the industry eagerly awaits their creative return. What the future holds for each designer will be interesting as the stresses of the fashion calendar become increasingly clear as creative directors step down ([see story](#)).

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