

COMMERCE

Cline, Phoebe Philo end exit rumors with internal memo

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Celine spring/summer 2015 campaign image

By STAFF REPORTS

After online rumors of a parting emerged last week, French fashion label Celine and Phoebe Philo have said they will continue their creative relationship.

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With fashion creatives currently playing musical chairs and abruptly stepping down, Ms. Philo expressed her commitment to Cline in an internal memo seen by Women's Wear Daily. Ms. Philo has been Cline's creative director since 2008, and is seen as an intrinsic aspect of the label's development, most notably its handbag offerings, which have grown under the designer's direction.

Happily staying put

The rumors suggested that 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 by often choosing her family over work, as when she became 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 ([see story](#)).

To quell the concerns of Cline employees, the LVMH-owned brand and Ms. Philo issued an internal statement. The statement, signed by Ms. Philo and CEO Marco Gobetti, explains that the designer and label "are more motivated and committed than ever to their partnership and will continue to create beautiful products."



Cline handbags

The memo continue to say that the rumors were unfounded, "based on rumors, not truths" from "dubious sources," per [WWD](#).

Prior to the memo, Cline officials had not spoken on the matter.

The fashion industry guessing game has become a hot topic on the Internet with a number of theories trying to predict where creative director free agents will land ([see story](#)).

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