

APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES

## Herms introduces handbag made with mushroom-based textile

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*Victoria bag in Sylvania made out of fine mycelium, HPlume canvas and evercalf calfskin. Image credit: MycoWorks*

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

French fashion house Herms is reimagining its Victoria travel bag in collaboration with California-based biomaterial startup [MycoWorks](#).

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The new design will rework the bag in canvas, calfskin and Sylvania material, an alternative hybrid textile made from MycoWorks' fine mycelium. The patented cultivation process uses fungi's capacity to bind itself and other materials, making it a viable substitute for traditional animal leather.

"MycoWorks' vision and values echo those of Herms: a strong fascination with natural raw material and its transformation, a quest for excellence, with the aim of ensuring that objects are put to their best use and that their longevity is maximized," said Pierre-Alexis Dumas, artistic director of Herms, in a statement. "With Sylvania, Herms is at the heart of what it has always been: innovation in the making."

### Sustainable leather

In the natural world, mycelium's threads form intricate, interlocking patterns that spread widely underground, branching and connecting.



*Sylvania leather. Image credit: MycoWorks*

Fine mycelium will be produced in the MycoWorks facility, then tanned and finished in France by the Herms tanners to further refine its strength and durability and shaped in the workshops by the Herms craftspeople.

A collaboration three years in the making, Sylvania is the result of a shared vision between MycoWorks and Herms for growing the future of materials and a quest to unlock new design possibilities.

The collaboration pairs expertise in tanning the highest quality materials with the tools of biotechnology.

In February, Herms reported positive growth, demonstrating adaptability and agility despite the health and economic crisis brought on by the COVID-19 virus.

In 2020, the company's consolidated revenue decreased only 6 percent, reaching 6.389 million euros, or \$7.75 million, as the loyalty of local customers and increase in ecommerce successfully offset a reduction in tourist spending. Herms saw especially remarkable performance in Asia, as well as within its leather and saddlery business line ([see story](#)).

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