

APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES

## Stella McCartney releases vegan handbag for sale

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*The bag is made of entirely vegan materials. Image credit: Stella McCartney*

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By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

British fashion house Stella McCartney has released its highly anticipated plant-based alternative leather accessory the Frayme Mylo handbag.

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A champion of animal and human welfare, Stella McCartney is constantly pushing the envelope on fashion sustainability. Made from mycelium, a mushroom-based material, the brand's newest bag is making a major statement in the fashion world by welcoming alternative materials into the standard luxury space.

Sustainability at the core

The Frayme Mylo handbag is handcrafted by artisans in Italy who the brand specially trained to work with the realistic vegan alternative to animal leather.

The mycelium used in the material is grown in a lab by Stella McCartney's brand partner since 2017, Bolt Threads. Bolt Threads grows mycelium in a vertical agriculture facility using air, water and mulch to recreate a process that occurs on the forest floor using ingredients found in nature and powered by renewable energy.

The brand first teased mushroom-based garments last year when it created a set of leather-alternative pieces made from mycelium. The two products from the collaboration, a black bustier top and utilitarian trousers, were not available for sale but served as an example of what the brand believed would become the future of its fashion offerings ([see story](#)).

With the new handbag available for purchase, that belief is now a reality.

[View this post on Instagram](#)

A post shared by Stella McCartney (@stellamccartney)

### *The bag is fully vegan*

According to Stella McCartney, Mylo "leather" is more substantial in its physical quality than other animal leather alternatives. The mycelium is harvested as a foamy layer and mimics the structure of collagen, giving the final material a sponginess.

Further, it is treated with a finish to protect and enhance the quality of the material, completed according to Green Chemistry standards, without the use of chemicals like dmfA and chromium.

Launched at the brand's summer 2022 runway show, a limited number of bags are available for pre-order online and in-store. It currently retails for \$2,950.

The rounded design also features a recyclable aluminum chain and medallion, making the bag recognizable as a Stella McCartney original.

In March, the British fashion house ruminated on the wondrous capabilities of fungi in an inventive campaign. Two short films including a spot with Merlin Sheldrake, a mycologist who specializes in the study of fungi explore how powerful and versatile this group of spore-producing organisms can be.

As Mr. Sheldrake praises the properties of fungi as remarkable, he also explains how the fashion industry at large could be headed in a fungus-laded direction ([see story](#)).

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