TAKING HOLD

The stories behind fall's best new bags: a rock star–charity collaboration, old-world classics, and why anonymity is chic.



CHARM SCHOOL MODEL SHU PEI CARRIES A LOUIS VUITTON/EDUN MONOGRAM REVELATION ($4,370) WITH BIJOU SAC LV MASAI CHARMS ($550). SELECT LOUIS VUITTON BOUTIQUES. BALENCIAGA BY NICOLAS GHESQUIÈRE DRESS, $3,950; BARNEYS NEW YORK, NYC.

1. HELPING HAND

"As travelers, we're awed by the African landscape," explains Bono, who with his wife, Ali Hewson, of Edun, collaborated with Marc Jacobs on the Louis Vuitton/Edun Monogram Revelation, with proceeds from the sale of the bag going to Conservation Cotton Initiative in Uganda to promote ethical trade. "We've focused on Kenya's beautiful handcrafting skills," he says of the fair-trade bone charms (sold separately), hand-dyed with floral motifs, dangling here from the embossed-leather holdall, which is based on an 80-year-old house design. It's an unexpected venture between luxury label and local artisans; consider these captivating accessories an investment in the future, in more ways than one. "Consumers can transform the landscape of trade, and ultimately the lives of others," says Bono. Jacobs puts it thus: "If it feels right, it will look good!" And doing good feels right, too.—E.A. *view >207*



2. INSIDE OUT



Before there was Ann or Martin or Haider, there was Delvaux, the haute bourgeois leather-goods company that has flown the flag for Belgian design since 1829. Now, 181 years later, it's finally available here, with Barneys New York selling three of the house's classic purses. In tribute to those Flemish deconstructionists, here are two of them, pulled apart, ably demonstrating why, in today's faster-than-fast world, they've stood the test of time.—M.H.

CARRYING ON THE BRILLANT GM (NEAR LEFT) AND THE TEMPÊTE ($3,650); SELECT BARNEYS NEW YORK STORES.

	THE TEMPÊTE (1967)	THE BRILLANT (1958)
THE NAME:		
THE LOOK:	Flemish first lady channeling Jackie Kennedy.	Woman-of-the-people bicycle-riding monarch.
THE SOURCE:	All made at L'Arsenal, in Brussels, which originally housed horse-drawn military vehicles from the 1900s onward.	
THE LEATHER:	Box calf to croc (from tanneries that also supply Hermès).	Best in ages—beautifully cognac-hued Bridon calfskin.
THE CRAFTING:	Many pieces—the Brillant alone needs 64—taking ten to 25 hours per bag, created by a team of three (a master craftsman, plus two apprentices).	

KT AULETA. Sittings Editor: Ethel Park; hair: Shin Arima for Redken at Frank Reps; makeup, John McKay for Shu Uemura at Frank Reps. Still lifes: LIAM GOODMAN. Details, see In This Issue.