

FIVE MINUTES WITH MANU ATELIER

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Meet the sisters behind your next must-have bag

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Manu Atelier Fall 16 lookbook

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Sisters Beste and Merve Manastir are 'daddy's girls' with a difference. The daughters of a renowned leather artisan, they drew on their father's meticulous craftsmanship and use of superior materials when founding their own bag collection, **Manu Atelier**, in Turkey in 2014. Spying a gap in the market for thoughtfully designed, impeccably crafted bags that don't cost the earth, Manu Atelier quickly attracted a cult following among fashion insiders like Eva Chen. See why these discreet, sophisticated designs are worth making a noise about.

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Describe the Manu Atelier aesthetic.

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is always at the forefront of our minds. We combine traditional production techniques with evolutions in research and design.

What did you feel was missing in the market?

We started **Manu Atelier** with the belief in our father's talent and drew on his 53 years of expert experience. Women who inspire us want high quality and unique designer brands instead of the same mass-produced products as everyone else; we wanted to fill this gap with a brand which is affordable yet premium.

How did you go about making traditional craftsmanship relevant to the contemporary woman?

Being women, we recognise exactly what factors go into the perfect bag. We wanted to offer a well thought through product, with attention to detail on every single part. When you touch and look at our designs, you can feel the amount of work and effort that goes into every single bag.

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Stacked leather in their workshop

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Craftsmen constructing bags

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The sisters in their workshop

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Do you ever clash?

Yes, we both have similar tastes but completely different characters, but we're learning how to use this to our advantage. Having two different perspectives on a difficult decision is often very useful. It's important to

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How would you describe the women who carry your bags?

She is the type of woman who defines a brand, not one who is defined by the brand. She is passionate, original, pure, and courageous. She has attitude and her style is her own. She is both inspired and inspiring. We named our first collection after the characteristics of strong women.

Which bag do you carry?

Merve: Macro Pristine.

Beste: Mini Pristine.

What is always in your handbag?

Merve: My little black notebook and a nude matte lipstick.

Beste: My headphones.

What makes Turkish style distinctive?

There are lots of different cultures and backgrounds in Istanbul. You can see a beautiful combination of Europe and the Middle East in every single part of the country; fashion, food, art, literature and architecture are all influenced these different cultures. That's what makes Turkish style distinctive.

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'When you touch and look at our designs, you can feel the amount of work and effort that goes into every single bag.'

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The EDIT



MANU ATELIER
Light Pink Micro Pristine Box Bag



MANU ATELIER
Navy Leather Mini Pristine Box Bag



MANU ATELIER
Suede Fernweh Mini Backpack



MANU ATELIER
Brown Leather Pristine Box Bag