

= Tory Burch =

Tory Burch (born June 17 , 1966 ; née Robinson) is an American fashion designer , businesswoman , and philanthropist , who has won several fashion awards for her designs . She is the Chairman , CEO , and Designer of Tory Burch LLC . In 2015 , she was listed as the 73rd most powerful woman in the world by Forbes .

= = Early life and education = =

Burch was born in Valley Forge , Pennsylvania , the daughter of Reva (née Schapira) and Ira Earl " Bud " Robinson (1923 ? 2007) . She was raised with her three brothers (Robert , James and Leonard) in a Valley Forge farmhouse , a 250 @-@ year @-@ old Georgian near the Valley Forge National Historical Park .

Her father was a wealthy investor who inherited a stock exchange seat and a paper cup company . He dated Grace Kelly and Joan Bennett before marrying Reva , an actress who had dated both Steve McQueen and Marlon Brando . Burch is Jewish on her mother 's side .

Burch attended the Agnes Irwin School in Rosemont , Pennsylvania where she was captain of the tennis team , and was a friend of jewelry designer Kara Ross . Her first job was at Benetton in the King of Prussia Mall .

She then attended the University of Pennsylvania , an Ivy League university in Philadelphia , where she was a member of the sorority Kappa Alpha Theta . She majored in art history , and graduated in 1988 .

= = Career = =

= = = Early work = = =

After graduating from college , Tory moved to New York City where she worked for Zoran , a Yugoslavian designer , followed by Harper 's Bazaar magazine . She then moved into public relations and advertising positions at Vera Wang , Polo Ralph Lauren and Loewe when Narciso Rodriguez was there .

= = = Fashion label = = =

Burch began her fashion label ? " TRB by Tory Burch " , later known as Tory Burch ? in February 2004 , launching it with a retail store in Manhattan 's Nolita district . Most of the inventory sold out on the first day . When Oprah Winfrey endorsed her line on The Oprah Winfrey Show in April 2005 , calling Burch " the next big thing in fashion " , Burch 's website received eight million hits the following day .

Since launch , the company has grown to include 160 Tory Burch stores worldwide . The fashion line , which encompasses ready @-@ to @-@ wear , shoes , handbags , accessories , watches , home decor , and a fragrance and beauty collection , is also carried at over 3 @, @ 000 department and specialty stores worldwide . In 2015 Burch also introduced a separate performance activewear line , Tory Sport , with a dedicated website and a pop @-@ up shop ; a stand @-@ alone store on Fifth Avenue followed in 2016 .

Burch 's style has been described as preppy @-@ boho and preppy @-@ bohemian luxe , and is associated with her T @-@ logo medallion . Known for being easy to wear and versatile , her styles are popular with women of all ages , including the viewers and fans of the television show Gossip Girl , where they were often featured . In 2007 , there were wait lists to buy Tory Burch fashions , which are known for color and print and often pay homage to styles of the 1960s and 1970s . Burch named her line of Reva ballerina flats after her mother .

= = = Selected television appearances = = =

= = = Awards = = =

In 2005 , Burch won the Rising Star Award for Best New Retail Concept from the Fashion Group International . In 2007 , she won the Accessory Brand Launch of the year award at the Accessories Council Excellence Awards . In 2008 , Burch won the Council of Fashion Designers of America award for Accessories Designer of the Year . Working Mother included her on their list of the 50 Most Powerful Moms of 2015 . In 2015 , she received the Breast Cancer Research Foundation 's Sandra Taub Humanitarian Award .

Burch has consistently been included on Forbes ' list of The World ' s 100 Most Powerful Women . As of 2015 , she is listed as the 73rd most powerful woman in the world by Forbes .

= = Philanthropy = =

Burch serves on the boards of the Council of Fashion Designers of America , the Society of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center , the Breast Cancer Research Foundation , the Startup America Partnership and the Barnes Foundation . She is a member of the Industry Advisory Board of the Jay H. Baker Retailing Center at the Wharton School of Business , and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations . She chaired the 2007 spring gala for the American Ballet Theatre .

In 2009 , Burch founded the Tory Burch Foundation , which supports the economic empowerment of women in the U.S. through small business loans , mentoring and entrepreneurial education . The foundation is currently partnered with ACCION USA , a non profit domestic microfinance provider founded in 1991 . Burch ' s stores sell products whose proceeds support the foundation ' s work .

In 2014 , the foundation launched Elizabeth Street Capital , an initiative with Bank of America , with an initial investment of \$ 10 million in capital to provide women entrepreneurs with access to low cost loans , mentoring support and networking opportunities . The initiative is named for the location of the first Tory Burch boutique . The foundation also offers an entrepreneurial education program in collaboration with Goldman Sachs 10 ,000 Small Businesses and Babson College . In November 2015 , the foundation launched a fellows competition offering women entrepreneurs a chance to compete for business education grants , year long mentoring , and a \$ 50 ,000 grant plus a \$ 50 ,000 no interest investment in their business .

In April 2014 , the Obama Administration named Burch an inaugural member of the Presidential Ambassadors for Global Entrepreneurship , a group of successful American businesspeople committed to developing the next generation of entrepreneurs in the U.S. and around the world . Other members of PAGE include Reid Hoffman , co founder of LinkedIn , and entertainment producer Quincy Jones .

= = Personal life = =

In 1993 she married William Macklowe , son of real estate tycoon Harry B. Macklowe , and was divorced within a year . In 1996 she married J. Christopher Burch , an investor in Internet Capital Group , a venture capital firm founded by Walter Buckley and Ken Fox . Although divorced from Burch in 2006 , she continues to use his last name , and for some time continued to live with her children in their New York City apartment ; she has three sons and three stepdaughters . She dated Lance Armstrong in 2007 . Afterward she was for some time linked to Lyor Cohen . In early 2016 Burch became engaged to Pierre Yves Roussel , the chairman and CEO of the LVMH Fashion Group . The couple had been dating since 2014 .

Forbes magazine has estimated that she is a billionaire , with a net worth of \$ 1 .0 billion as of 2013 .

