

# CABAS CAGOU



## • CRAFT/PROFESSION

Caroline DUPIN-GILET and Chantal MARY are seamstresses. They have combined their talents and inspiration to create “Cabas Cagou”, a line of leather goods in organic vegan leather, in addition to their respective work designing apparel for women and children. They make a range of bags and items and also create designs to order.



## • BACKGROUND

Sewing has always been part of Chantal's life. She learned to sew with her grandmother and it rapidly became a passion. So she decided to make sewing her career and studied for a CAP diploma in Fashion and Unstructured Design. Following a period working as an intern, she met Caroline, who invited her to come and work and learn in her studio. “She taught me everything I know today, she’s a wonderful teacher”, says Chantal.



Caroline has always been mad about fabrics and started designing clothes as a teenager. “I loved the freedom it gave me to unleash my creativity. So when I had to decide on a career, it was a revelation”. Caroline has a BTS diploma in Soft Materials and a degree from a Design & Styling School; she gained her experience working as



head of a design/cutting room in high-end ready-to-wear fashion. For 14 years, she has worked as a self-employed seamstress, designer and stylist in New Caledonia. In 2017, she was awarded the title of Master Artisan by CMA-NC in recognition of her skill and expertise.

## • INSPIRATION AND ART/DESIGNS

Chantal and Caroline use bark from Portuguese-grown cork oaks to make their range of vegan leather goods. The bark is durable, lightweight, natural and washable. No chemicals or heavy metals are used during the processing and dyeing of the cork bark.

Chantal and Caroline create items of all sizes, from small card cases to large tote bags. All linings are made from GOTS certified cotton. Creating designs that combine elegance and style with practicality and a natural look are a priority. Chantal and Caroline draw their inspiration from their daily environment, what they see on the street, the latest trends and their personal preferences.

“We are committed to offering eco-friendly and cruelty-free products, which is why we chose to make our designs using cork bark, a renewable and non-polluting alternative to animal leather” they explain.