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With a mother who painted and an architect father, her career as an artist could have been a foregone conclusion. Yet, for Dechamby, painting was primarily therapeutic; a means of getting herself through difficult points in her life.

Her reasons for taking up painting may help to explain why Dechamby's work, which falls naturally into the pop art genre led by Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein, is so vibrant and uplifting. She famously never paints dark subjects.

Dechamby's fun-filled subject matter also transposes perfectly onto her collection of limited edition, printed bags, which she conceptualises from her studio and gallery in the Swiss ski resort of Crans-Montana where she lives.

Created entirely from leather in Italian workshops, Dechamby's bags exude her passion for creativity, craftsmanship and artistic perfection.

The bags, which are available in two sizes, boast clever and useful detailing, such as an interior compartment and central zipped pocket. Each bag is also supported with six studs underneath for strength, and carries the Caroline Dechamby Crans-Montana motif.

Dechamby sees the women she designs for as ambitious, independent and blessed with good taste. As someone who has emerged from

personal crises, helps fund educational projects for disadvantaged girls and even holds a pilot's licence, Dechamby could, it seems, almost be describing herself. ●

ART ON YOUR ARM

WORDS: MIRIAM DUNN

CAROLINE DECHAMBY'S FORAY INTO LUXURY FASHION ACCESSORIES HAS PRODUCED A FUN, YET EXQUISITELY CRAFTED COLLECTION OF MUST-HAVE BAGS

Caroline Dechamby's eye-catching, lively subjects, painted in bright, bold colours, are now reaching a whole new audience in the form of luxury bag lovers.

Tulips, poppies and butterflies, which have routinely found their way on to the Dutch-born painter's canvas, are now also adorning exquisite leather bags, bringing a feelgood factor to a woman's most important accessory.

Dechamby is no stranger to the world of fashion, having worked as a model in Paris when she first left the Netherlands over 20 years ago.



ABOVE: Caroline Dechamby

RIGHT: Bags by Caroline Dechamby

www.caroline-dechamby.com