

NEW YEAR, NEW STYLE

JANUARY 10, 2020

D'Punchline, Trinidad & Tobago

Designer: Gabrielle Punch

Style in three words: Simple, functional, fashionable

About D'Punchline: Original, handcrafted leather goods including journals, wallets, shoulder bags and backpacks. D'Punchline represents my country and myself: Caribbean, one-of-a-kind, high quality, classy yet funky, colourful, innovative, authentic, even imperfect at times.

Unique selling point? I create one-off pieces – there's no mass production. When a customer purchases one of my pieces, they know they're the only person in the world who has it. Most of my creations are unisex or gender inclusive. If you're a man, and you like a purple cross-body tote I've made, just buy it!

What are you doing differently? I've expanded beyond the kind of brown, hard, cow-leather goods you typically find in tourist shops in the Caribbean. My pieces are made from soft and luxurious leathers, and are available in a range of colours.

Plans for 2020: I'm looking at collaborations with fellow creatives. Thus far I've worked with photographers Rachel Lee Young and James Solomon, and soy candle artisans Galt & Maree, combining my leatherwork with their products to form unique pieces and packages.

What will be hot this year? I see more funky and modern waist pouches, cross-body chest pouches and backpacks available in every colour.