

Wait The piece to covet LIST



THE ULTIMATE KELLY

An It bag that's more than meets the eye

Securing an Hermès Kelly bag has long been a rite of passage for fashion devotees. Now, designer Pierre Hardy has crafted what may be the ultimate luxe version of the iconic accessory—a cunning, condensed Kelly rendered in rose gold and diamonds that functions as both handbag and bracelet. The brilliant stone-studded handle doubles as a cuff, while a detachable shoulder strap brings the *objet* back to bag territory on demand. “It’s a very small bag and an enormous jewel,” Hardy says. “I wanted to distill all the value of the leather bag into something small and precious, like the essence of a perfume.” The distillation process, in this case, involves 1,200 hours of labor, 1,600 diamonds weighing 33.94 carats, and an elaborate casting technique by which each piece of gold is shaped and polished to achieve the crocodile effect. The compact dazzler is ample enough to conceal a credit card, lipstick, or “perhaps another jewel,” he suggests with a laugh. ■

Photograph by Thomas Lagrange

Hermès jeweled Kelly bag. 800-441-4488. See Where to Buy for shopping details.