

ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE

MARY LYON AWARD 2020

PRESENTED TO



May Yang '10

MAY YANG, CLASS OF 2010, the Alumnae Association of Mount Holyoke College is pleased to honor you with the Mary Lyon Award. This award is presented to an alum who graduated no more than fifteen years ago and who has demonstrated sustained achievements in their life and career consistent with the humane values that Mary Lyon exemplified and inspired in others.

May, as co-founder and chief executive officer of Lidia May Luxury Handbags, a company that “embodies the dual vision of stylized luxury and social enterprise,” you incorporate the rich culture and crafts heritage of South Asia in your motifs, creating handbags that are instantly recognizable and inspire curiosity, compassion and self-assured playfulness.

A double major in international relations and physics, you began your career working for Skadden Arps as a legal assistant and then went on to become program coordinator for Friendships Inc., eventually becoming program officer for the organization’s Bangladesh location, where you focused on poverty alleviation. In 2014 you co-founded Lidia May, creating premium handbags that incorporate traditional Bangladeshi embroidery techniques. In partnering with the Lidia Hope Centre, you help to train women in high-end embroidery, providing them with the skills necessary to pursue future careers and attain financial independence. Vogue magazine described Lidia May as “a brand that holds hope that it can instill change at a fundamental social level while making a truly beautiful product.”

MAY, in recognition of your exceptional early career achievements and in anticipation of your future contributions to community and economic development for women, the Alumnae Association is honored to present you with the Mary Lyon Award.

MARIA Z. MOSSAIDES '73
PRESIDENT
ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE

NANCY BELLOWS PEREZ '76
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE