

# Ties That Bind

Tali Handmade presents artisanal bags which aim to connect women globally



Bright geometric totes are perfect for everything from shopping in exotic souks to sun-kissed adventures



Exceptional craftsmanship and simple elegance are the hallmarks of Tali Handmade



Tali Handmade = Summer chic

Photographed by **JinggoMontenejo**

**D**iscriminating shoppers who love a good story behind their fashion pieces will be delighted to discover Tali Handmade, a chic collection of bags created with the vision of empowering women and improving lives. Named after the Filipino word which means "to tie," each Tali piece is handmade from unconventional raw materials woven together to create vivid geometric patterns through traditional crochet techniques, and embellished with premium hardware and accessories.

Both working mothers, Tali Handmade co-founders Liza Morales-Crespo and Marielle de Leon-Lazaro were so moved by a visit to the female inmates at a city jail that they were inspired to kickstart this passion project. Liza, design director of Liza Crespo Ecotecture, a leading design agency in sustainable architectural design with offices in Manila and New York, and Marielle, who has a background in manufacturing, design,



**FIFI'S FINDS**  
**PIERRA CALASANZ-LABRADOR**

and retail, aimed to create a venture that would make a difference in the inmates' lives. Liza and Marielle initially began teaching the women simple design patterns, and eventually employed them to bring their original bag designs to life. By fusing quality production and design with principles of sustainability, the project soon evolved into a true social enterprise that focused on empowering women at the grassroots level.

This June, we can finally check out Tali Handmade as they launch their debut collection on their website as well as in key boutiques here and abroad. "We plan two collections every year, for spring/summer and fall/winter, since we're gearing up for an international clientele," shares Liza. With exquisite colors and sumptuous details, Tali Handmade's spring/summer collection is designed for the modern woman who blends stunning achievement with a sense of play. From bright geometric totes,

to sophisticated clutches and (our favorite!) fringed sling bags, Tali Handmade's array of luxurious styles reflect the many sides of the chic woman who has exciting places to go.

And of course, Liza and Marielle stress that at the heart of Tali are the special women who create every Tali product by hand, in the tradition of true craftsmanship. These women live in impoverished rural communities, some living with disabilities with little opportunity to work, but by honing their skills and earning wages through Tali's sustainable enterprise, they are able to send their children to school, put food on the table, and get a second chance at a decent life. Every Tali Handmade bag helps continue their story, and thus, remains true to the brand's essence—to tie—by creating bonds and connecting women globally.

*Tali Handmade will be available at [talihandmade.com](http://talihandmade.com), as well as Tint in Greenbelt 3 and Itsie-Bitsie boutique in Repulse Bay, Hong Kong. Be sure to catch Tali Handmade as it joins the trunk show at Tala Manila at 3 Salcedo Place, Tordesillas St., Salcedo Village Makati from June 18-25.*



The perfect chic and roomy tote for the multi-faceted woman's busy lifestyle

Looking for something in particular? Let Pierra be your virtual shopper! Email [pclabrador@gmail.com](mailto:pclabrador@gmail.com), go to [thehappyllab.com.ph](http://thehappyllab.com.ph), or follow @tinypoem on Instagram



Jetset in proudly Filipino style with Tali Handmade