

Boutique of the Week



Bess & Loie
Mireya Acierito

Bess & Loie

1015 W. Lake, 312-226-2247



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Clutch Player

Sales Check

Chicago magazine's weekly roundup of retail sales, openings, events, and the latest must-haves.

By Rebecca Little

In the Bag

Allyson Holleb named her loft-like purse boutique in the West Loop after her stylish grandmothers. **Bess & Loie** (1015 W. Lake St.; 312-226-2247), decorated with antiques and large black and white family portraits, carries smaller, hard-to-find lines of handbags, clutches, and carryalls with prices averaging around \$400. Although most of her lines come from New York and Los Angeles, Holleb carries a few international brands, including the buttery leather totes (\$450) by Dautore from Brazil. We spotted a cute line called Seabags, which makes sturdy bags suitable for the beach out of recycled canvas sails (\$85 to \$110). You'll also find familiar brands like Pagliei and Hayden-Harnett alongside Jack Gomme, Linea Pelle, and Mitzi Baker. A men's selection of handbags, jewelry and Lee Allison ties will arrive in the coming weeks. "I don't want anyone to feel intimidated or feel pressure to buy anything," Holleb says, a claim she backs up by offering a stocked kitchen, television, and seating for her shoppers.