

The Art of Traveling Light: See How Three of the Art World's Most Stylish Jet-Setters Pack for Their Summer Holidays

by Noor Brara
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In the last weeks of August, before the busy fall season returns, the art world gets ready for its final and longest round of summer vacations. With this in mind, artnet News decided to reach out to three of the industry's coolest women—photographer Sophie Elgort; the Wing's resident art curator, Lolita Cros; and Gagosian's art liaison, Sarah Hoover—for advice on a topic that can make or break even the most glamorous of adventures: How do you pack?

From investing in a must-have prop for overnight flights to sending toiletries on ahead to your destination, these women shared their tried-and-true tricks for getting where they need to go in style—along with some exciting summer art highlights and travel plans.

Lolita Cros, Curator at the Wing

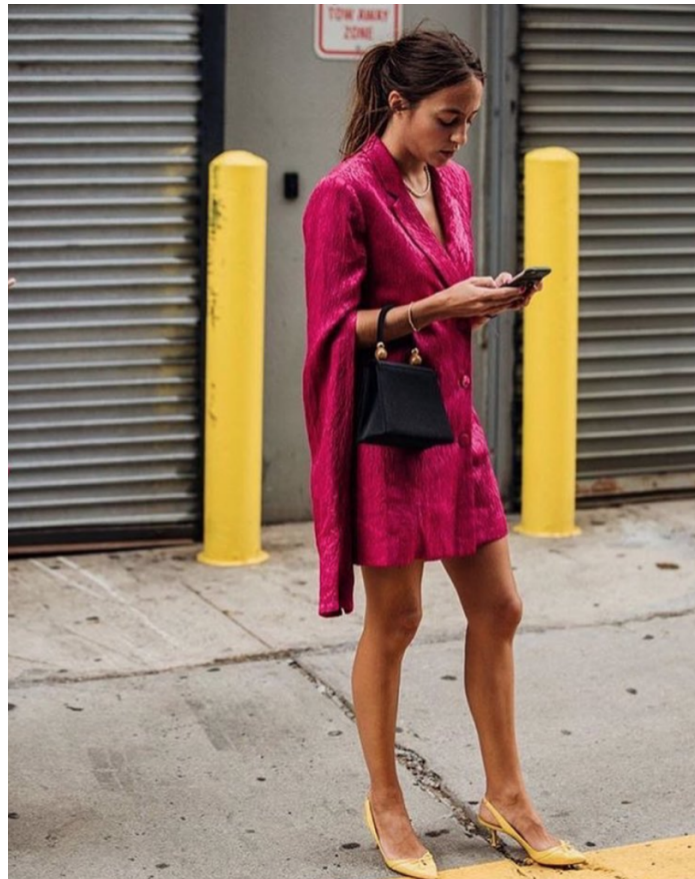


Photo of Lolita Cros courtesy of Lolita Cros

What does summer look like for you? Where are you going?

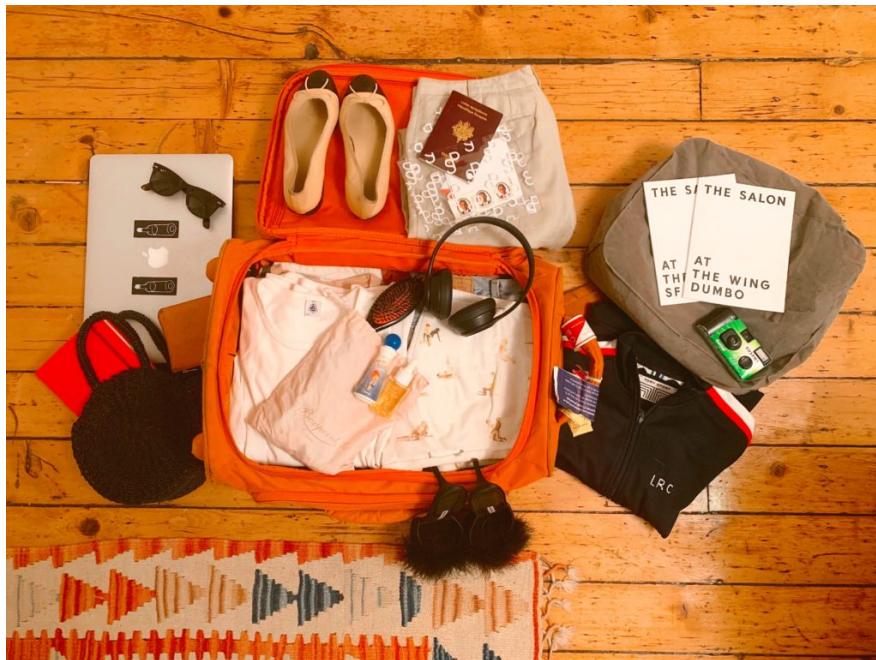
Summertime is full of familial obligations. They're always good ones, but usually my opportunity to discover a new place is in April or May. At the end of July—I actually time it to the village fete—I spend time with my family in the South of France in a little medieval village called Puisseguier. It's the most beautiful place. It's in the middle of the vineyards, and we go there and eat lots of good, grilled food, and beautiful tomatoes, and drink beer with the local villagers.

Then usually I have a week back in New York, between this vacation and the next, with my boyfriend's family in Harbour Island in the Bahamas. That's a little more relaxing. We stay at Ocean View, which is a beautiful hotel that he's been going to for years. We usually spend a week there.

When I'm back, this summer, I'll be in New York for 24 hours, and then I'm flying out to London to do a studio-visit marathon for the opening of the Wing London. I'll be visiting a lot of artists, a lot of galleries, and checking out the scene there. There are many artists I already work with in London, so I'm excited to either meet them in person or see their studios, because I've never seen their spaces. So it's all very exciting—but super rushed, going from vacation mode to insane art-marathon mode.

How do you pack for all this?

I'm more-or-less organized, but I need to start making a punch list of all of the items that have to make it into my bag. There's always one I forget. I'm not a checked bag sort of person—I haven't checked a bag in years. In that way, I can be an under-packer. I'm a big under-packer of t-shirts—I always tend to run out—but I'm an overpacker of underwear. And shoes.



Lolita's suitcase featuring a selection of t-shirts, a pair of Repettos, sunglasses and her inflatable stool. Photo courtesy Lolita Cros

For the South of France, I basically just wear two outfits the entire time. It's a lot of shirts, a pair of running shoes in case I feel like working out at some point, lots of shorts, and comfy clothes. I always, no matter where I go, bring one fancy-ish outfit. My mom is the queen of buying dresses that are impossible to get wrinkled. I have a lot of those I inherited from her.

For Harbour Island, a lot of my friends like to go there at the same time as us, so I pack colorful things for going out, for dancing... lots of nice shoes! I need to go to the Repetto store this evening to buy a new pair because the ones that I have have holes everywhere. I prep more outfits for Harbour, because it's fun to try out fun things for a beautiful, tropical setting with your boyfriend and friends.

London will be a lot of suits, pants, shirts that I'll need to iron as soon as I get there. I anticipate a lot of small rainstorms, of course, so I'm planning for that. I'll pack probably one pair of heels for London in case there's a dinner that's happening or I go out with an artist.

What do you wear while you travel, and what do you bring on the plane?

I'm not someone who wears sweatpants when I travel. I like to look somewhat decent on the plane. I think Europeans are raised that way, sort of sweatpants-averse. I have my unique linen pants, which are the best travel pants, and some comfy shirts that I don't need a bra for.

I have a new obsession, which I advise everyone to get for their plane rides: an inflatable foot rest. You don't realize that, when you're trying to fall asleep on the plane, the thing that you're lacking is just something to put your feet up on, like an ottoman. It's made a huge difference. You just feel like you're sleeping horizontally rather than at a hard angle. That thing is a life saver. I used to just use a bag and then I invested in this \$20 footstool, and now I can't live without it.

What art have you seen this summer that you're excited about?

Outside of seeing my family, the second most important part of my trip to France is flying to Arles for the Les Rencontres d'Arles photo festival. I stay at the Nord Pinus hotel while I'm there. My favorite exhibition this year was Mohamed Bourouissa's showing at the Monoprix [the French chain store].

I've been running around so much for the Wing—where all the artworks are on sale—and making sure that pieces get safely to the homes of their clients, but I still have to go see the Whitney Biennial before it closes and MoMA PS1's "MOOD: Studio Museum Artists in Residence 2018–19." Two of the Wing artists have work there now: Allison Janae Hamilton and Tschabalala Self. I've been working with Tschabalala since 2012—I'm so amazed by her career and the way she's developed her practice. It's also incredible to see so many other artists who are equally good, but who haven't yet gotten that little kick. And she's a really big supporter of younger artists, so it's pretty amazing to talk to her. There's actually a talk that I did with her that I uploaded on my YouTube channel, which is one of the favorite talks I've done. She's super honest about her career, and the art world in general.

And then in terms of other art projects, I am trying to do more events and curated studio visits for collectors and smaller groups of people, which I want to put online so everyone can have a peek. I'm looking forward to the next "Studio Visit of the Month" as they're called. It's a video series I do for artists I work with, featuring their spaces. The next one will hopefully happen in the fall at some point, when I lock down the time.



Boarding the plane in Nassau to go to Harbour Island. Photo courtesy Lolita Cros.