



# THE ART OF STYLE

*Globe-roaming art adviser Viola Raikhel-Bolot has curated a wardrobe of looks that are as beautiful as the artworks she buys.*

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**W**hen it comes to packing, Viola Raikhel-Bolot has it down to an art. “I know which pieces translate to a number of looks, so whether I’m going for two weeks or two days, and to whichever countries, I always know what to take,” she says. “And I never go anywhere without heels.” As one of the world’s leading art advisers, Raikhel-Bolot’s job takes her all around the globe and to a mix of locations. “One day you’re in Moscow and that evening in Paris. Sometimes we’ll spend days in the dark unpacking exhibitions in Geneva unloading work from a crate and then [be] at a meeting in London.” And that’s the real challenge of her role: its sheer diversity.

What exactly is an art adviser? Raikhel-Bolot’s firm, 1858 Limited Art Advisory, services high-net-worth clients, such as private bank HSBC and family offices, to buy or sell artwork on their behalf or evaluate their collections for insurance and tax planning. Unlike an auction house or gallery, 1858 Limited doesn’t own stock, so doesn’t exhibit, promote or sell art, enabling it to guarantee impartiality to its clients when advising on investment and authentication.

#### **NICHE NOIR**

Black is back. *Opposite:* Raikhel-Bolot wears Tibi skirt, \$1518, from Christensen Copenhagen; Louis Vuitton necklaces, approx \$867 and \$517; and her own Dolce & Gabbana top; Hermès cuff; Rolex watch; and Christian Louboutin heels.

This also means that in any one day, Raikhel-Bolot might have a meeting with a bank or a corporate firm and then visit an artist’s studio. “There’s no dress code, and being in the art world you do have a bit more liberty to be creative in the way you dress,” she says. “But I can’t show up in jeans.” According to Raikhel-Bolot, knowing what works for your figure – and a style that carries from day to night, and stands the test of motherhood and travel – is the best approach.

“I’ve developed a signature look,” she explains. “I love a maxi skirt because I can put it on in the morning and it’ll carry through to an evening event, and they’re seasonless: I can wear one in winter with boots and in summer with sandals.”

She’s also particularly fond of tailored white shirts and black turtlenecks, depending on the season, both of which are interchangeable with different accessories. Not surprisingly, Raikhel-Bolot’s darting around the globe leaves little time for leisurely days spent going shopping. ►



**LADY IN RED**

It's the colour of passion, so wear something that makes you feel extra special. Raikhel-Bolot was photographed in the studio of artist Neil Frazer, whose paintings of icy landscapes serve as a cool contrast. Dolce & Gabbana dress; Christian Dior earrings.



“There’s nothing I love more than stealing a morning with my girlfriends in London or LA and going to the boutiques,” she says. “I know what suits me and which designers I like.” She’ll regularly call on her favourite stores and scan what’s new. But the art expert is also an online convert and enjoys shopping at the likes of Net-a-Porter or Moda Operandi. “At this point in my life I know what I want and what I like, so it’s much easier.”

As seen here, Raikhel-Bolot knows personal style is about more than the latest items to hit the shop floor. “I like things I can keep for a long time, which is why I’m fond of luxury brands. They last forever,” she says. With them, she mixes pieces found from around the globe. In this shoot (right), she is wearing a traditional scarf from Russia, her birthplace, so it means a lot to her to incorporate it into her everyday wardrobe. “It’s nice to have something with cultural significance. I’ll throw it on with a leather jacket or dress it up for a special event at night. Pieces like that give you a sense of character.”



## PEAK VIEW

Mix vintage with new-season garments. Missoni dress, \$673, from Christensen Copenhagen; vintage Russian scarf; Falke tights; Hermès leather bracelets; Rolex watch; Saint Laurent heels. *Left:* Proenza Schouler jacket, \$2482, from Parlour X; Christian Dior necklace, approx \$2820, cuff, \$1880, and bag, \$5222; vintage T-shirt; Enza Costa maxi skirt.