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Winter Accessories: Let *la Fête* Begin!

by Sarah Colton

See those staid black pumps with comfortable two-inch heels in your closet? Please, get them out of my sight! And that prim little bag that says all the right things about you? Throw it out the window! And while you're at it, do the same with everything else you have that's thin, contained or practical.



There's no place in Paris for that this winter! Instead, imagine your wildest fantasies in all their glorious colors, shapes, textures and styles, indulged and taken right over the edge in luxurious and sensuous materials. What have you got? Paris Winter 2000-2001 fashion accessories in a once-in-a-millennium celebration with a license for exuberance pushing nine on the Richter scale. Considering the importance of accessories in *La Parisienne's* wardrobe, read on...

You shouldn't be caught dead with a handbag. Carry a Christian Dior faux-ostrich bowling bag, instead. (Bowling ball not included, but certainly an option.)

For starters, dig the shoes: Charles Jourdan, Jean-Charles de Castelbajac, Céline, Chanel, Christian Louboutin. Nothing remotely ordinary about this winter's collections: the pointiest toes, the highest heels, sequins, zippers, animal skins, stilettos, boots! Comfort? Altitude problems? Who said anything about keeping them on all evening, anyway? These are definitely meant for kicking across the room in some kind of a mood swing, slinging over your shoulder as you wander along the *quais* at 4 a.m., or flinging at the back of you ex's head, just to make your point.

The same goes for everything else. You shouldn't be caught dead with a handbag. Carry a Christian Dior faux-ostrich bowling bag, instead. (Bowling ball not included, but certainly an option.) Or a "monogram satin" Louis Vuitton metallic evening "box." Get the picture? Something outrageous. Something sublime. Everything extreme. Widest and softest belts from Lanvin, or thick ones, studded with "nails" from Hélène Zubeldia. Colors, metals, every decade you would like to fixate on, gold, punk, plaids, furs.... How about a mink handbag with pom-poms from G.R. Fischelis? Or removable fur "sleeves" from Barbara Bui, a sporty leather-and-fur biking jacket from Plein Sud, fox collars by just about everybody, fur fedoras Jean-Paul Gaultier?

The morose years of somber minimalism have been chased out of town by these uproarious, spirited and high-living invaders. Looking for fun? It's time to play. There's nothing serious about this year's Paris winter accessories, except to be seriously haywire—and hot. Hope it's cold!

Bonnes Adresses

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> Winter Accessories

La Parisienne

The Little Black Dress

Profile: Irena Gregori,
Fashion Designer

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