

# c h a r l e s   n o l a n

Spring 2009

“The Years of Folly 1919 – 1929” . . . it was this exhibition that I stumbled on in Paris that spoke to me . . . a really wonderfully extensive exhibit in a charming little museum, exploring the burst of creativity in Paris just after the First World War.

The merging of art, society, theater, and fashion . . . everything was new. People started traveling, if not in fact then through the movies and radio. All that was exotic and different was the fascination.

Machines and everything mechanical were the rage . . . and were rapidly changing the old social order. “Modern” became the mantra.

I shared the exhibit catalog with a friend who in turn sent me a wonderful biography of the lives of Gerald and Sara Murphy . . . *Everybody Was So Young*, by Amanda Vaill.

A young couple uninterested in the strict social order of the first Mrs. Astor's New York, they chose to move Paris. They both came from families with resources; and for Americans it cost almost nothing to live there, so all the artist and writers the best and brightest came.

The Murphy homes became central in the creative American expat community, whether in their Paris studio or at their “Villa America” in Cap de Antibes.

They knew everyone. They loved to entertain and did it with a creative charm and all-out enthusiasm – and to their own tune.

One May, they persuaded a hotel keeper to stay open for the summer – up until then the South of France closed in the summer (why would anyone want to be out in the hot sun?) – promising that they'd bring friends down.

Almost immediately, sunbathing caught on, the trend had begun.

Today we are playing on the idea of travel not in the literal sense but the creative.

The shapes go from lean to voluminous and short to long and that's just the pants.

The idea is still to be as simple as possible while making something as interesting as possible.

Some of my favorites:

The steamer coat with the dolman sleeve for ease and movement and the elongated waisted trench.

The slouch blazer cut with the half raglan sleeve again for softness and ease both longer and cropped.

The mud colored safari linen suit with the cropped drawstring pantaloons.

The fan pleated skirts and dance dresses.

# c h a r l e s   n o l a n

## S p r i n g   2 0 0 9

1. Katia      Nude bull denim steamer coat. Black glazed jersey cowl.  
Black tech taffeta fan pleat skirt. White buck oxford.
2. Milagros    Black tech cotton blazer. Carnation silk jersey sleeveless knot top.  
Black tech cotton cropped cuffed trouser. Nude spectator oxford.
3. Arthur      Silver grey mohair bespoke suit. White button down oxford shirt.
4. Cecilia      Black jersey short sleeve smocked hip dress. White buck oxford.
5. Alina        Shocking pink sheer striped coat. White cotton ascot shirt. Black  
gabardine short. White buck oxford.
6. Tine         Black bull denim pea jacket. Black cotton tank. Shocking pink stretch  
cotton skinny jean. White elastic t-strap.
7. Juliana      Black crepe mock turtleneck with short sheer sleeves. Neon pink  
gabardine short. Black buck oxford.
8. Laurent     Silver vest. Silver knee short. White oxford recycled Uniqlo shirt.
9. Ariel        Black / white silk chiffon plaid wrap dress. White elastic t-strap.
10. Valeria     Star print sleeveless cowl. Black silk jersey skirt. Nude elastic t-strap.
11. Charlotte   Black crepe linen topper. Black crepe voile hooded cardigan.  
Blush taffeta twill drawstring cuffed cropped pantalon. Nude spectator  
oxford.
12. Kim         Black jersey and cotton satin dropped waist wrap dress. White elastic  
t-strap.
13. Sara        Silver metallic knit tank dress. Silver elastic t-strap.
14. Ola         Hammered silver habutai ascot shirt. White panama cotton cuffed  
short. White buck oxford.
15. Xiaoyi      Moss panama cotton drop waist trench with elongated gun flaps.  
White cotton tank. White bull denim skinny jean. Black buck oxford.
16. Katia       White cotton asymmetrical shirt. Moss panama cotton cuffed short.  
White buck oxford.

17. Cecilia Leaf green painted cotton steamer coat. Black crepe voile wrap sweater. Putty cotton drawstring cuffed cropped pantalon. White buck oxford.
18. Alina Neon green gauze pleated shift. White buck oxford.
19. Arthur Indigo cotton silk pinstripe bespoke suit. White button down oxford shirt.
20. Milagros Floral net blouson top. Floral net layered skirt. Silver elastic t-strap.
21. Boi Navy blue gabardine bespoke suit. White button down oxford shirt.
22. Tine Indigo linen tweed soft suit. White cotton shirt. White elastic t-strap.
23. Kenny Navy pinstripe bespoke jacket. White linen back buckle trouser. White button down oxford shirt. Black buck oxford.
24. Pierce Sky blue glen check bespoke suit. White button down oxford shirt.
25. Wade Turquoise silk plisse tuck front shirt dress. Orange elastic t-strap.
26. Juliana Indigo / white striped silk jersey boat neck tee. White silk linen cropped palazzo pant. Black buck oxford.
27. Dara Indigo / white striped silk jersey tank. Navy swim short.
28. Bret White oxford recycled Uniqlo shirt. Navy jersey short. Acid green speedo.
29. Valeria Indigo crepe voile hooded cardigan. Leaf green cotton tank. Neon green gabardine short. Green elastic t-strap.
30. Laurent Denim double breasted bespoke blazer. White skinny jean. White button down oxford shirt.
31. Connie White cotton raglan sleeve big shirt. Indigo mélange twill cropped trouser.
32. Cecilia Mudd pleated sleeve safari jacket. Mudd linen drawstring cuffed cropped pantalon. White buck oxford.
33. Xiaoyi Olive chintz glazed linen jacket. Bronze hooded foil sweatshirt. Olive taffeta cropped drawstring cargo pant. Black buck oxford.
34. Katia Bronze glazed cotton voile shirt. Olive drawstring taffeta skirt. Gold elastic t-strap.
35. Ghylian Orange silk chiffon hip smocked dress. Orange elastic t-strap.
36. Ola Pansy print draped hip smocked tank dress. White buck oxford.
37. Ariel Mudd linen pleat back shift. White elastic t-strap.

38. Sara Bronze / white exclamation print hip smocked dress. Gold elastic t-strap.
39. Milagros Sand lace front safari tunic. Bronze denim skinny jean. Gold elastic t-strap.
40. Kim Sand cotton taffeta safari jacket. Sand cotton taffeta trouser. White elastic t-strap.
41. Alina Black silk point d'esprit blouson. Black silk chiffon drawstring invert pleat palazzo pant. White oxford buck.
42. Juliana Black silk chiffon tunic. Black cotton drawstring cuffed cropped pantalon. Black buck oxford.
43. Tess Black silk linen shirt dress.
44. Dara Black jersey and silk fan taffeta wrap dance dress.
45. Valeria Black tech taffeta dinner suit. Black silk chiffon short sleeve pleated blouse. Black elastic t-strap.
46. Xiaoyi Black cotton shirt. Black silk cutwork ruffled skirt. Black buck oxford.
47. Cecilia Black silk organza pleated shift. White buck oxford.
48. Ariel Blush glazed linen dance dress. White elastic t-strap.
49. Laurent Silver shantung bespoke dinner jacket. White button down oxford shirt. Black short.
50. Katia Black silk organza tuxedo dance dress. Gold elastic t-strap.
51. Ola Blush silk fringe coat. Blush glazed jersey cowl shift. White buck oxford.
52. Arthur Black shawl collar bespoke dinner jacket. White button down oxford shirt. Black twill jean short.
53. Tine Blush silk organza ruffled dance dress. White elastic t-strap.
54. Milagros White panama cotton drop waist trench with elongated gun flaps. White silk organza pleated shift. White buck oxford.