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WOMEN WHO TRAVEL

## From Paris to the Côte d'Azur, Immigrant Women Are Leading France's Creative Scene

*France's latest wave of ingenuity is transforming historically rigid industries, from food and fashion to art and design.*

BY MICHAELA TRIMBLE

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Artist Joelle Meissner in her Nice studio, which once belonged to Henri Matisse. Teal Thomsen/Wild Terrains



L'Escale du Ciel is a Grasse guesthouse from German interior designer Judith Thiel. Teal Thomsen/Wild Terrains

## Austrian art and German design in Côte d'Azur

Located on the outskirts of Grasse, one of the world's foremost perfume-making regions, **L'Escale du Ciel** is a charming guesthouse created and owned by the interior designer Judith Thiel, originally from **Germany**. After purchasing the house in 2016, she slowly renovated the property with vintage décor from around the world, including antique chairs and tables from Southeast Asia and natural fiber lamps sourced from **Morocco**. The hotel, with its sweeping view of the Gorges du Loup valley and expansive outdoor pool, is within easy reach of downtown **Nice**, where the home studio of the German painter Joelle Meissner awaits. The artist, known for her colorful, Picasso-esque paintings of women, often partners with the Austrian art historian and buyer Marie-Theres Michel to create bespoke art events for her roster of private clients. "France's art scene has very much opened up in the last decade," says Michel. "And women, especially immigrant women, continue to gain much more importance in the contemporary art scene."