



# 'Banned Booty' turns confiscated TSA items into art

DISPATCHES

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(Photo: BannedBooty.com)

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Alas, this [pink stun gun](#) — recently confiscated from a clueless passenger at Salt Lake City International Airport — won't be included. Neither, as far as we can tell, are [once prohibited but now permissible](#) snow globes.

But plenty of other items intercepted by the ever-vigilant Transportation Security Administration will be on display at "[Banned Booty — Palm Spring Checkpoint](#)," an art exhibition opening Oct. 18 at the [Palm Springs Air Museum](#).

Known for its collection of flyable World War II aircraft, the California museum takes a contemporary

turn with "Banned Booty." Open through May 2013, the exhibit features mixed-media installation pieces that artist Steve Maloney created from items plucked from carry-on luggage by the TSA at the Palm Springs International Airport.

"American travel changed radically after Sept. 11, 2001, (and) the 'Banned Booty' series captures a small aspect of this change," says Maloney in a press release.

"Armed with 21st-century passenger booty, I shaped artistic interpretations of our time. Two-dozen professional hairdressers' scissors compose 'A Cut Above.' Needle-nosed pliers and a physician's reflex hammer must have belonged to 'Seasoned Travelers.' And 'Houdini Booty Lock Up,' my take on a contemporary time capsule, cuts across every demographic line," Maloney says. "Enclosed within the work's bulletproof Plexiglas cube is a common blender blade, barbells, a butane torch and corn-on-the-cob skewers, all wrapped with 60-feet of hand-painted chain. Together, they reflect the way we have magnified the meaning of common items. It is serious. It is lighthearted. And it is the way we live now."