

c magazine

big art

by kristen foley

for anyone who ever thought they couldn't live the "big city life" in columbus, 23-year-old jacquie mahan will tell you that you need to look at things with a more artful view. last year the upper arlington native ventured back to ohio after graduating from the art institute of boston. she returned with the intention of starting at the bottom of the career ladder; but it was her father's persuasion and her own abounding energy that inspired her to skip a few rungs and open the mahan gallery.

energized with the prospect of creating something of her own, she invested in a space in the short north area and hasn't looked back since. it was an opportunity that she would have probably never stumbled upon had she remained in beantown. "in boston or new york city, you are a really small fish in a huge pond, and there are hundreds of galleries competing," she said. "but in columbus, the owners know each other by name and work with each other rather than against each other."

her main aspiration is to provide a space for the public to experience thought-provoking artwork for what it is, not for its style factor. "there are very few art galleries who are willing to put up edgier work that makes people think and not just stuff that will match your couch," says mahan. "i want to make a gallery for emerging artists and be a stepping stone to those who are going to get bigger and bigger as they get older."

since the opening of the gallery, in december 2003, mahan gallery has already played host to a diverse collection of artists, photographers, sculptors, painters and even a political cartoonist from the middle east. with success in her back pocket, mahan already envisions her gallery lending its space to other facets of art, including music and poetry readings.

visit www.mahangallery.com for upcoming shows and events.