

A gallery where visitors feel like welcome guests

For Meghan Candler the goal is for clients to have a 'happy experience'

BY BARBARA YORESH

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VERO BEACH — In a world sadly filled with illusions, distortions and misrepresentations far beyond the political realm, it is refreshingly restorative to one's faith in what is good and real to encounter true beauty and genuineness.

And so to enter the Meghan Candler Gallery located beachside on A1A in the Village Shops and to meet the owner whose gallery bears her name is to experience that rare serendipity where both the art and the owner embody exquisite refinement, eye-catching allure and just plain fun.

A high-quality gallery doesn't happen by accident and Candler's formal art education, knowledge and practical experience have resulted in a space that both excites and calms the senses. To see such wonderful works quickens the pulse of an art lover while the serenity of the gallery itself - with soothing classical music softly playing - makes one feel as though they have happened upon a wonderful oasis.

Candler, the former Meghan O'Haire, is a Vero Beach native who attended Saint Edward's School and graduated with high honors from Smith College with a major in art history. Although her interest in art began with creating her own works which included illustrating a cookbook and later working with Bill Sevrens, a preeminent maker of Nantucket lightship baskets, Candler subsequently

turned to art history. She expressed deep appreciation to her parents for valuing as well as underwriting her impressive and costly education.

"My parents funded a good education and I'm grateful that Dad would float that boat," she said.

The art programs at Smith were renowned, she said, and even in pursuing art history courses, she also worked hands on creating art in a wide range of media.

"At Smith they were very big on (art students) understanding the process. And what you discover is that anybody who makes it look easy is really good," Candler said.

An ambitious student, Candler and a friend



PHOTOS BY BARBARA YORESH

Meghan Candler opened her Village Shops gallery in 2002 where she represents the work of over 40 artists.

skipped their senior year at Saint Edwards and applied to college a year early. Due to her young age, Candler and her parents decided a women's college might be a good choice and they began

visiting prospective campuses. Despite her Southern roots, the New England campus of prestigious Smith College was a good fit for the eager student.

"We did the college tour

thing and I just clicked there at Smith. I'm really happy I lived there in New England and I still see the value of a single-sex education where

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