

STYLE • the edge



STAFF PHOTOS BY TED FITZGERALD

Like mother, like daughter



By JILL RADSKEN

Christine and Faye Guanipa enjoy a close mother-daughter bond, channeling their creative energies into handbag and jewelry businesses.

Now, the pair is celebrating a unique success. The Mass College of Art graduates have earned a spot in the design school's new MassArt Made store, just opened at 624 Huntington Ave.

No need for homemade macaroni necklaces this Mother's Day.

"It's great for us," said Christine, who graduated in '87 and now sells a line of handbags called Little Man. "We love

being a part of MassArt and what they do."

Faye, who started designing an eponymous line of jewelry after graduating in '09, said the joint opportunity has given her a strong base building a successful fashion business.

"It's easy to bounce off each other," said the 23-year-old, who has a studio in Uxbridge. "I see how she's done it and I want to get to the place where she's at."

The elder Guanipa dabbled in design after college, but took time off to raise her three daughters in Whitinsville. She started devoting serious time to her graphic print bags in 2000, getting them in



FAMILY BUSINESS: MassArt graduates Christine and Faye Guanipa, left, are represented in the school's new store. Christine arranges her bags, above. Faye's funky jewelry stands out, below left.

Creative designers' wares selected for MassArt Made

dozens of boutiques and galleries across the country, including the Institute of Contemporary Art and Gifted, both in Boston.

"It didn't just happen. It was years of working on it," said Christine. "I'm very step-by-step. I wanted to be able to handle it."

Her inexpensive handmade pieces, which range in price from \$10 to \$98, have a vintage sensibility.

"I've just reached the time where I can't keep up with demand," said Christine.

Faye hopes to have such problems, but the one-of-a-kind nature of her work translates into a slower process.

"This is my first store," she said, proudly eyeing the Lucite shelf in MassArt Made that bears her vintage baubles.

Faye said her necklaces, which range from \$40 to \$150, are bolder in design than her mom's bags. Response has been more dramatic as well.

"A waitress in Quincy took the necklace right off my neck, and gave me her tip money" she said. "And a girl in a bar wrote me a check for another."

Ever the proud mother, Christine nodded at Faye's sales stories.

"You made that with your hands and people see a value in that," she said.

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