

My Backyard November 2007

## Lifelong Passion Made Artfully Elegant

Mikala Cash has been sewing since she started kindergarten. In high school she started making cloths and bags for herself and friends. “It was at that time I realized I really enjoyed sewing and designing, so I decided to go to Massachusetts College of Art to polish my skills in design and construction.” Mikala said. Focusing on her handbags, this hobby of Mikala’s soon grew into a career. “I liked the idea of designing handbags because there is a need for them. Every time a woman leaves the house, more often than not she has a bag.” Mikala said. Not only does she have a bag, but it is full of stuff; anywhere from documents for work to bagged lunch. Handbags are not only a trend and accessory, but a tool almost all women need. I can’t imagine leaving the house without my bag.

Mikala Cash’s designs are, as she puts it, “artfully elegant.” Every bag is 100% unique. Every bag is a limited edition, meaning the bag you have, might be one of the three Mikala has hand-crafted. “Often times we buy so much stuff, and we have no idea where it comes from.” Mikala explained. At Mikala Cash Designs, you know exactly who made it. You can call, email, or stop by and meet Mikala. “Every one of the bags I make has a history. There are many times I can look at a bag, think back and remember what song was playing or what the weather was like the day I made it.”

Mikala’s bags are full of personality. She also allows the music she listens to, occasionally direct her to her choice of fabric. “I like to listen to electronic, classic rock, and reggae. Sometimes a song will inspire me to use a different fabric than what I originally had in mind.” One day you might find Mikala grooving as she works on her latest creation. “It is like a one person party in here,” she laughed.

Mikala uses a lot of upholstery fabrics with modern, contemporary patterns and colors. This means her bags are durable as well as artsy. “There options are limitless. I like to combine fabrics and textures and mix patterns. I love color.” You can find a variety of bags from conservative to all-out funky. One of the most current trends in bags, (accessories and clothing) is the geometric patterns and metallic colors. “I definitely try to stay on top of the trends and incorporate them, but I don’t let them run my business.” Mikala said. Mikala spends time picking out her fabrics, many of which she purchases from New York.

Mikala Cash has been putting full time hours and lots of love and care into her designs for a year and half now. To check out Mikala’s fabulous bags, go to [www.mcashdesigns.com](http://www.mcashdesigns.com) for styles to choose from and bags ready-made to purchase. Mikala also does home parties. You can find out more online or by calling 508-446-4406. If you want to create your own custom bag, or you are interested in the vast selection of “functional pieces of art,” call ahead to book an appointment. Mikala Cash Designs is a one-of-a-kind stop you won’t want to miss.