

Pregnant art's a belly good idea

PREGNANT stomachs have traditionally been hidden from view under loose clothing.

But Brighton woman Nicole Shulman is doing her best to put the pregnant form on display.

She and artist Ilana Pincus make and decorate plaster casts of pregnant women's torsos.

Shulman said their business, Belly Art, celebrates pregnancy. She said casts were being hung in children's bedrooms and in hallways.

It also allows second and third time mothers to compare their shapes with previous pregnancies.

"You can touch it . . . your kid can touch it," she said.

"It's a piece of art work."

"You never really know what

you look like, even when you look in the mirror."

Shulman first became interested in the idea after reading about it in an American magazine.

She made a cast for herself when she was pregnant with her first child, Felix.

She said she liked having an image of her pregnant self that wasn't a photograph.

After making casts at cost price for friends, Shulman and Pincus launched Belly Art last September.

Shulman, who now has two children, said she was preparing to return to her job at an IT company before she started Belly Art.

"I was going to go back to work and then this happened," she said. "It's the perfect job for a working mother."



Nicole Shulman, who makes casts of pregnant women's stomachs, admires the display in her studio.