

WASHINGTON, D.C.

The
New You
Improve
Your Life!

Get
Close to
Bradley
Cooper
Page 114

SPRING
FASHION

96

Wearable &
Affordable
Trends!

HOME...YOUR LIFE

Where
To Live
Now!

* Find
Buy
Design
Furnish

PLUS:

Tips,
Tricks &
Expert
Advice
For Your
Home

GUYS:
Sexy Cool
in T-Shirts
& Jeans
+
Babes,
Beer &
Motorcycle
Gear

MARCH/APRIL 2006
www.dcitybomag.com

\$3.99US \$5.99CAN



71486-02605-1

Allison Cohen helps her clients find artwork that fits their style and sensibility.

Eye for Art

Allison Cohen helps customers find just the right pieces for their homes.

Airy lofts have become hot properties in D.C.'s real estate market, but these quasi-industrial digs can be a challenge to decorate. Enter Allison Cohen, a local art consultant who scours the city's galleries and paint-splattered studios in search of great finds for her clients' boxy new abodes.

She is one of the very few D.C. art consultants who specialize in finding contemporary pieces for young urbanites. Cohen founded her business, Sightline (www.sightline.biz), in early 2004 after a stint as a senior associate at a Washington law firm. She says her growing roster of clients is filled with savvy hipsters who want art that not only complements their style, but also stimulates their minds. Many are looking for works that are likely to prove a sound investment, Cohen adds.

"They want to go beyond the surface of the artwork to understand what it is about, how it affects them and how it impacts their space," she says. "This makes it that much more fun for me to advise them."

To meet her clients' needs, Cohen schedules an initial meeting to explore personal preferences. Then she calls on gallery owners who are advised of the client's interests in advance so they can dig up works from file drawers or even offer early viewings of recently arrived pieces. Generally she deals with artwork priced upwards of \$2,000. Her commission comes directly from the artist or gallery and is not reflected in the price of the piece.

One of Cohen's favorite sources is Fusebox gallery, a 14th Street art space that's known to host cutting-edge shows. "There's this South African artist, Simone Allen, who comes in and does these really cool wall in-



stallations using old-school comic strips, like Rin Tin Tin, that have these racial undertones," Cohen says. "And he will sometimes White-Out the text of the comic strips so you have to look at the images and what you see has this unsettling connotation." Cohen says she also looks to G Fine Art for up-and-coming artists who may not be shown at other local galleries.

When looking for über-edgy, abstract or

avant-garde pieces, Cohen often works with Numark Gallery, a spot that's showcased Chan Chao's photographs of naked women and Dan Steinhilber's wall sculptures made from shampoo bottles. Cohen also travels to art spaces around the country in search of works that have just the right look.

For clients Philippa and David Hughes, Cohen tracked down several pieces to suit both their Logan Circle loft and a shared love of

Inside The Mind Of Allison Cohen

Hot spot of choice: Rats-Unk in New York City

Last book read: *On Photography* by Susan Sontag

Last meal: Pan-seared scallops on greens with a Meyer lemon vinaigrette

Favorite luxury item: Art. It's not always a luxury; it can be a necessity.

Favorite retailer: Wink in Georgetown



Favorite after-work drink: White wine or equally whatever bottle is open in the fridge.



Best thing in your home: B&B Italia twin loveseats



Favorite article of clothing: My Yanuk jeans

Can't leave home without: My Dolce & Gabbana black handbag

Biggest pet peeve: Smokers who drop their cigarette butts on the ground

Favorite way to unwind: Reading *The New Yorker*

Guilty pleasure: Ghisde!! Chocolate brownies in a box (Just add water!)

Favorite restaurant: Michelle Richard Citronelle

First car: A used 1981 Honda Accord



Last song/album bought: *The Postal Service: 'Give Up'*



Favorite part of the city: Rock Creek Park

"When looking for uber-edgy, abstract or avant-garde pieces, Cohen often works with Numark Gallery, a spot that's showcased Chan Chao's photographs of naked women and Dan Steinhilber's wall sculptures made from shampoo bottles."

contradiction. "I like things that are not what they appear—in general, not just in art," Philippa says. "And so at least two of the pieces that we've bought with her are just simple patterns or designs, but when you look closer they're very complex and they become more beautiful because of that."

In addition to working one-on-one with numerous clients, Cohen organizes regular gallery events where artists and art appreciators can meet up for dinner and drinks. "These intimate gatherings are more social and they also give you the opportunity to walk up to the artist and chat," she says.

Cohen points to some red-hot recent events to prove the city is raising the bar for contemporary art exhibits. The Found

Sound exhibit last year put sound art into reconfigured Port-a-Potties across town. The Hirshhorn Museum's 24-Hour Psycho exhibit showed the Alfred Hitchcock masterpiece on a projection screen at super-slow speed over 24 hours. "The trend is toward bringing people in, making it sort of a party, but saying, 'Here's a challenging art exhibit; Enjoy it in a new way,'" Cohen says.

She's considering some more ambitious projects, including rotating works at a client's home gallery and staging video art. "Right now there are some people in Washington who would consider doing that, although not too many. But what's exciting about being in D.C. is that there's a lot of potential here." —Christie Findlay

SAVVY SHOPPER
Great Finds Online

What's Online

Watching television all day in your pajamas can be a little depressing—especially if you're tuned in to MTV's *Cribs*, where celebrities show off their mansions filled with ultra-luxe furniture and the coolest little products you'll probably never own. But before you get down in the dumps about your less-than-chic digs, take note of this: Some of the best home accessories—the ones that are stylish and inexpensive—can be yours if you know how to shop online. We surfed the Internet for these hot-priced finds, so all you have to do is point, click and figure out what to do with all that extra coin. Who said you can't accomplish anything by just sitting around? —Caitlin Connors



\$16



\$9



Clockwise: Melamine tray, www.globetabrics.com; Poppy laptop sleeve, www.anc.com; mrgoods.com Will Series glasses, www.modernpovarty.com



\$34

