

MEG REAGAN

"I'm in Newport forever."



Meg Reagan bounces all over Aquidneck Island like a ping-pong ball, rarely taking time to relax at her Thurston Avenue home. Most of the time, the 31-year old jeweler can be found in her Tiverton studio, creating fused glass necklaces, rings, and belt buckles, as well as her signature "Lazy Meg," a spin-off of the popular Lazy Susan.

Reagan is inspired by the opportunities to make personal connections in Newport County through her creativity. "To hear someone say, 'Oh, my God, I have to have that' about something I've made, is what really drives me," she says.

The Providence native moved to Newport three years ago from California to transform her small glass jewelry business, 9 Manning Square, into a full-time enterprise. Her original designs caught the eye of a Brick Market Place bead shop owner a few summers ago, and things took off from there.

Though the Internet and gift shows are her primary sales tools (including the Jazz and Folk Festivals at Fort Adams), she sells her designs in 65 storefronts across the country, including local shops Marie-Luise, Anchor Bend Glass Works, and Beach House by Watercolours.

Reagan says she appreciates Newport's community spirit. Among her strong local connections is a pool of female entrepreneurs, who meet weekly to brainstorm ideas, share resources, and provide moral support. Reagan is also buoyed by guidance from Newport community agencies including the Chamber of Commerce.

"Newport is perfect for me because I can be part of a close-knit community that supports and nourishes me," she adds. "I wouldn't want to live anywhere else or run my business anywhere else. I'm in Newport forever."

Meg Reagan wearing **MOKSIA** jacket
FINE WOVENS