

DESERT PATROL



JUST THE FACTS

On Godt-Cleary's walls: "Robert Rauschenberg: Art & Life.' It's an exhibition of paintings, prints and multiples by one of the most important and influential artists of the 20th century."

Favorite artists: "Richard Serra is amazing and Ed Ruscha is amazing and sexy!"

Favorite Vegas places: "Lobby of THEhotel, Marché Bacchus and, of course, Downtown— Main Street in particular."

Best thing about living here: "No snow. I can play tennis in January and call everyone in New York to brag about it!"

MICHELE QUINN Eyes Art

Michele Quinn is on a mission to reshape Vegas' visual landscape one wall at a time. As director of Godt-Cleary Projects, this 35-year-old consults on large-scale installations in public places—such as THEhotel and, more recently, the Nevada Cancer Institute—in addition to helping her gallery clients find that perfect piece to place above the mantel. The New Yorker arrived in Vegas at age five, when her father, a cardiologist and one of the founders of Sierra Heath Services, brought the family here to start his own practice. Quinn moved away for college and eventually returned to her birthplace, where she cracked the oft-elitist New York art world and built an impressive resume while working with industry legends.

"My first internship was with Castelli, who represented Rauschenberg, Jasper Johns and [Roy] Lichtenstein," says Quinn, who went on to work with many of

Alexander. While working for the gallery, Quinn read about some developments in Las Vegas, particularly THEhotel. "I told the gallery owner I was going to get us a hotel," says Quinn. "I felt Vegas was ready for it. Vegas got Quinn."

While looking for a hotel project, Quinn met Glen Schaeffer, president of Mandalay Resort Group, who was looking to start his own gallery. Schaeffer walked out of that meeting and realized I'd just agreed to move back to Vegas. Last year, Quinn, who also serves as curator for the Schaeffer collection, moved the gallery from Mandalay Place to Downtown's Arts District. "Galleries are a collective," says Quinn. "The Arts District is a destination. We have people here straight from the airport." Acknowledging our city's recent progress, she paints a bright future. "The timing is just right, and