

Kristen Ley



Artist Kristen Ley is continually amazed by the amount of support she receives from the Jackson community for her work.

"I'm still so humbled that people want to put my art on their walls. I've seen that when people are passionate about the city, the city becomes passionate about them," Ley says.

But, it's really no surprise that she gets community support. The 27-year-old uses her talents in art and graphic design to uplift the city whenever possible. "We have so much talent here in Mississippi and Jackson. I'd love to help create opportunities for people who love art and who love to create to express that," Ley says.

Through her involvement in the Leadership Greater Jackson class from which she just graduated, she designed promotional materials for philanthropic programs at Oak Forest Elementary School and volunteered with those programs. She also created a set of fine-art watercolor prints of her favorite places in Jackson, such as Brent's Drugs in Fondren and the Standard Life building downtown.

Though Ley graduated from Mississippi State University in 2007 with a degree in graphic design and a minor in marketing, she expresses her creativity in many forms. She enjoys painting, sewing, designing, woodworking and let-

ter-pressing. "It's really therapeutic. Creating and doing things creates a satisfaction for me; it gives me a moment of quiet to get my thoughts out in a piece of art," Ley says.

Earlier this year she launched Thimblepress, a studio for her various art forms.

Ley attended high school at Jackson Academy where she now works as a graphic designer. She also does freelance design, including this week's cover art of the Chick Issue.

Whenever Ley isn't being crafty, she enjoys hanging out with her goldendoodle, Willow, and her cat, Norman.

—Allie Jordan