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Wednesday, May 11, 2005

# Inside the red door

**JULIE FITZGERALD** | CIN WEEKLY

The Red Door has introduced a new concept in shopping to the Mason area. Like an open market, the complex features many stores within it's double (red) doors.

Most of the 23 retailers are women. All are local, independent entrepreneurs – people who'd like to own their own boutique but fear taking the financial plunge into investing in their own brick-and-mortar building.

And, unlike your typical flea-market scene, all the items are brand new.

It's a great place to check out if you're shopping for home accents. (Currently there are no fashion retailers, though owner Beverly Barr is seeking some out.) If you make the trip, also consider budgeting time for pottery painting at neighboring Mad Potter (studio fee of \$8 includes everything except the dishware itself).

I shopped Red Door on a cloudy afternoon. Lingered for an hour and a half, I carefully browsed through it all. Here are a few of my favorite finds.

## HAND-THROWN POTTERY

**SHOWCASE:** LPB Sales

**PRICE:** Most \$15-\$25

**WHY IT'S WORTH CHECKING OUT:** The showcase is owned by a local woman originally from Brazil. She carries goods from her native country, including chocolates (\$4.95) and very reasonably priced pottery. I liked the planters (\$19-\$25).



**Bamboo purses. Awesome!**

## JUST THE FACTS

**WHAT:** The Red Door

**WHEN:** Open 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday

**WHERE:** 600 Reading Road, Space A (a few blocks south of Main Street in Old Mason), Mason

**PRICE:** Midrange (\$10-\$300) for home décor, accents and gifts

**PARKING:** Available in parking lot

**CONTACT:** (513) 770-3470



**Fire rocks. Sweet!**



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## CiN Weekly's Picks

### Dining



**2 for \$20.50**  
[Hyde Park]  
And so it goes: We came in just over budget at Cumin Modern Indian.

#### More Dining

- [Out to eat: Nicholson's](#)
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## Music



### Lagniappe

[Over-the-Rhine]  
Enjoy kickin' Cajun music tonight at Cincinnati's oldest watering hole.

#### More Music

- [Leadfoot Johnny](#)
- [Cincinnati Pops | Pops this summer](#)
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- [Sun: Boba McEntire](#)

Snag some of this cool jewelry at She Beads.

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## GINGHAM FLOWERS

**SHOWCASE:** Tranquility Pastures

**PRICE:** \$2

**WHY GO GINGHAM:** If I had a country-themed kitchen (I don't), I think the gingham "silk" flowers would be an unusual accent. Shaped like gerbera daisies, the flowers have petals made with colorful gingham fabric.

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**Judy Horne of West Chester Township works at the Mad Potter.**

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## BLACKBERRY JAM

**SHOWCASE:** Tranquility Pastures

**PRICE:** \$5.99

**WHY IT'S BETTER THAN SMUCKERS:** The owner of Tranquility Pastures makes her own jam, and her blackberry flavor won first place at the Warren County Fair. The ribbons are placed near the display, so you'll know it when you see it.

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## BAMBOO PURSES

**SHOWCASE:** Silver Artichoke

**PRICE:** \$28

**WHY YOU NEED ONE:** These caught my eye for their cute, contemporary design. The handbags offer a trendy alternative to the popular, summer straw carryalls.

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## CLAY BRACELETS/VERA BRADLEY WATCHES

**KIOSK:** She Beads

**PRICE:** \$29+ for bracelets/\$15 for watches

**HOW THEY SUPPORT CHARITY:** A portion of the sale from special bracelets made with clay beads supports cancer charities. Pink or blue tags indicate breast or ovarian cancer. The kiosk also has a line of Vera Bradley watches with her signature fabric bands.

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## BARBECUE SAUCE

• [Sullivan, KEDA PICTURE](#)

## Kids & Family



**Maifest in**

**MainStrasse**

[Covington]

Family-friendly party gets under way at 5 p.m.

**More Kids & Family**

- [Story times](#)
- [For kids](#)
- [International Festival](#)
- [Toy story](#)
- [Fun factory](#)

**SHOWCASE:** Bill BQ

**PRICE:** \$5-\$6 for barbecue sauces

**WHEN YOU NEED THIS:** If you grill out a lot and want a new barbecue sauce flavor, stop at Bill's booth. Red Door owner Beverly Barr recommends the Raspberry Chipotle sauce.

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## ZENTS: CONCRETAS

**SHOWCASE:** Treasured Locks

**PRICE:** \$29.99

**WHY JENNIFER ANISTON HAS ONE:** Inside Treasured Locks you'll find a variety of organic hair and body products, but the real attraction is the Zents line of signature scents. A leaflet details a long list of celebs (including Aniston) who use the Concretas concentrated perfumes.

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## FIRE ROCKS

**SHOWCASE:** Living Water

**PRICE:** \$30-\$40

**WHAT YOU COULD DO WITH THEM:** Made from quartz or granite, these otherwise useless rocks have been turned into something functional by an ingenious person. Hidden underneath is a basin for oil. A tiny hole for a wick has been drilled through the center, so essentially it's a candle. If I had a meditation room or a deck, that's where I would put a Fire Rock.



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