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## Artist creates TV show to feature work of his compatriots

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**J**ustin McGonigle knows how tough it can be to get people through the gallery doors, how difficult it can be to spread the word about an art show beyond those already tuned in, how frustrating to find people to listen to what you're trying to say.

McGonigle's answer? Take it to the airwaves.

McGonigle is getting ready to launch "Artists Spotlight," an interview-style show with local artists, along with recorded segments at artists' studios, to air on Access Nashua, part of Nashua Community Television's trio of community access channels.

"It's a way to have exposure for them. I know there are a lot of artists in the area," McGonigle said. "I thought it would be an additional way for people to get to know these artists and what's offered out there."

McGonigle, who works as a Web designer for the city, has been painting for 20 years, mostly abstracts. He and some friends just opened the sixth show at their gallery, the Schoolhouse Gallery, inside the North Country Sustainability Center in Ashburnham, Mass., where he lives.

McGonigle said that experience more than anything showed him how tough it can be to reach beyond the relatively small community of artists and enthusiasts already plugged in to the art scene in a certain area. It can also be hard for local artists to crack their way into a gallery show, which can be extremely competitive.

Artists who are moved to work, to create something, are trying to say something about the world or their

experience. It naturally follows that there's a need for the artist to have someone hear what they're saying, McGonigle said.

"I think artists have a lot to say. You don't often have a chance to talk to the artists as well," he said. "Any artist who produces their work wants people to see their work, to know what's behind their work."

McGonigle has a few artists already lined up to be interviewed on the show. He's looking for a volunteer cameraman or two to help record the segments at the artists' studios.

The show would be recorded at Access Nashua's Riverside Street studios and would last around 20 minutes of mostly questions and answers with McGonigle. How often the show is recorded would depend on how much interest from local artists there is, he said.

McGonigle said he has seen similar shows, usually on PBS, with major, well-known artists and always found it interesting to hear about what inspired them to paint a certain painting or sculpt a certain sculpture, as well as about how they went about doing it and what their working process is. He said it will be just as interesting to learn about talented artists at home.

"Why doesn't someone have a show for local artists?" he said. "Because wherever area you're in, there's lots of them. It's really getting to know the artist, and that can be really interesting."

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