

# Cooperative will help local artists explore printmaking

By **CHRIS BOOKER**

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A new business in German Village will offer artists the chance to put their work to paper.

Phoenix Rising Printmaking Cooperative and Gallery opens next week at 938 Parsons Ave. The cooperative is a nonprofit business that will offer the use of printing

presses, engraving space and lessons on printmaking.

Founders and directors Anne Cushman and Claire Hagan have been inspired by printmaking cooperatives in large cities such as Philadelphia. "It's a place where artists can do their own fine art prints or learn about printmaking," Hagan said.

As a cooperative, Phoenix Rising offers memberships to

local artists and allows them to buy time to use the cooperative's three printing presses. Hagan said printmaking is a difficult pursuit for individual artists.

"Usually the equipment is very expensive and takes up a lot of space. Also, unless they are a master printer, very few professional artists are experienced in printmaking," Hagan said.

The two printmakers purchased the three presses at auctions from Ohio State University's art department. One press allows the artist to create engravings with type, while another is the newest version of a hand-operated press and the third is a 100-year-old etching press.

"Artists will be able to make fine art prints, and we have the ability with the relief press for them to create their own art books with text," Cushman said.

Cushman and Hagan have been working to create Phoenix Rising for three years. It wasn't until co-founder David Rothert offered them space in one of his buildings that their dream began to take shape.

They helped complete renovations of the Parsons Avenue storefront following a fire that gutted the roof of the building — hence the name of the company.

"It's like the store is rising from the ashes," Hagan said.

In addition to printmaking, Phoenix Rising will also



*Gazette photo by Chris Booker*

**Anne Cushman (left) and Claire Hagan, co-founders of Phoenix Rising, pose in front of their newest press. Its 100-year-old counterpart is in the background.**

begin offering workshops on the craft in October and will use part of the 800-square-foot space as a gallery for local and out-of-state printmakers.

Owing the cooperative is a dream Hagan and Cushman have worked toward for more than 20 years.

Cushman was involved in a cooperative in Philadelphia for 20 years and has taught printmaking at Wittenberg University. Hagan has taught the skill for 20 years at Fort

Hayes Metropolitan Education Center and at the Gallery at Jung Haus in the Short North.

Call 444-2473 for more information or to purchase a membership at Phoenix Rising.