

**The Store:**

Radish Underground is a charming boutique and gallery space tucked just below Burnside in Portland's trendy West End Fashion District. The atmosphere is a refreshing combination of warm antique furniture and industrial piping on an exposed concrete floor; it's like you've just walked into your fashionable neighbor's cozy flat. Focused on independent designers and visual artists, the clothing is unique, wearable, and constructed with a consciousness and quality often missing in mainstream fashion. Each month a different apparel designer and visual artist (or accessory designer) is featured with a First Thursday opening celebration in the space. In addition to showcasing their line, each designer creates one or two exclusive garments that will only be available at Radish Underground. Owners Celeste Sipes and Gina Johnson grew up dancing together in the Northwest Ballet Co. in Montana and have been friends ever since. The daughters of two artists, a dancer and a musician (respectfully), they share a passion for craftsmanship and community. Together they had a vision to create a space where artists could network with one another, and the customer could experience this kind of passion and quality first hand.

The Owners:

Celeste made her way to Portland in 1996, and holds two BA's from Lewis & Clark College, in English and Philosophy. She is the established designer and owner of the Aster Park clothing line, which is currently being carried in Portland, Hood River and Los Angeles boutiques.

Gina followed her career as a contemporary ballet dancer to Los Angeles where she was the Assistant Director and a principal dancer for Meh-Tropolis Dance Theatre and received her BA in Dance Performance from Loyola Marymount University. After moving to Oregon in 2005 (and living in Celeste's spare room) she started The Scarlet Oak Candle Co., moving one step closer to her dream of opening her own store.

When Celeste's Grandmother told her she'd had a dream that Celeste had her own store, everything clicked. Just over one year later, Radish Underground was born.

Why Radish Underground?

While struggling in the wee hours of the night to come up with our (third) name, Celeste took a break and went into Gina's kitchen for a snack. Two choices lay before her...a Twix bar or a bowl of radishes. Curiously, she went for the radishes. A bit punch drunk and with mouths full of the red spicy vegetable, we started laughing and rattling off some radish inspired names. We have no idea who shouted it first...but when Radish Underground cropped up, we immediately felt the spontaneous rush of imagery: eat your vegetables, grow your closet, small farm fashion...etc. It was love at first bite.

Radish's grow underground so should your clothes.

RADISH UNDERGROUND

Independent Fashion + Art

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Hours: Mon-Sat 11am-7pm, Sun 12pm-6pm