

by Lance Scott Walker
Photography by
Christina Cherek

DOMY

"There's nothing like it in the city and there's really only a handful of stores like it in the country".

DOMY MANAGER
RUSSELL ETCHEN
SPEAKS ON THE
RARE BREED OF
STORE HE MANAGES

ADJACENT (AND CONNECTED) TO CAFÉ BRASIL ON WESTHEIMER, AND HE SPEAKS THE TRUTH. **DOMY IS FULL OF STUFF YOU'D HAVE TROUBLE FINDING EVEN IF YOU WERE IN THE RIGHT CITY.**

What kind of stuff? With Domy (Russian for "home"), it's hard to pinpoint, but it all centers around art, and specifically animation. **It's a bookstore, first and foremost, but it dodges definition beyond that.** The walls are stacked deep and thick with hundreds of graphic novels, tight-bound and oversized photo and drawing collections, and reproductions/new visions of comics by artists from every corner of the world. But they've also got a shelf of toys, a rack of original t-shirts, a wall featuring drawings (for sale) by artists both local and otherwise, and a wall of obscure DVDs.

"Art to me, when I was a kid going to the museum..." said Dan Fergus, who, along with his wife Magda Sayeg owns Domy, Café Brasil and the clothing store Raye, "The art didn't speak to me. All it told me was 'I could never do that.' It's the same analogy to punk music. **This is literature and graphics that maybe inspire you to draw, to write a little bit.**"

And then you have the fact that it's not just a store. In addition to what they have lining the shelves, **they intend to use the space as a vehicle to do events, host performances and screen films.** Dan has also opened the patio behind the store to the public, creating a sort of mini-market between Domy, Brasil and Raye.

Mixture Gallery, which formerly occupied the space, was supported by a demographic that couldn't even afford to purchase a piece of art from there. Fergus and Etchen, both hyperactive culture sponges and idea men, wanted a space that would bring that crowd back in, as well as attract the folks that would never step foot in an art gallery. They want to build a community.

"This brings in the kind of people that you don't see in Houston," he said. "For me, there's nothing more satisfying than seeing a high school kid come in here and see something like a Chris Ware book – it just elevates their understanding of design, and of the outside world."

Left to right:
Dan Fergus,
local artists Seth
Averson and Patrick
Whipp, Russell Etchen
and Stella

