

Allison Hylant
Re-Purposed Treasures

Artist Statement

My original object was a pin made from an old chipped eyeglass and a postcard. The written component that accompanied the pin made reference to the traditions of the handmade, the unique and the elderly.

For my piece, I created a sense of nostalgia, making reference to the past and to the iconic American image. To achieve this, I incorporated patterns, images, media and styles that invoke the American spirit. I wanted the overall appearance to be reminiscent of a patchwork quilt. I used collage, found objects, metals, photographs and embroidery to make individual sections that work together to create a unified overall feeling. As you walked away from the piece, it is my hope that a feeling of comfort, pride and loving memories come to mind. No specific narrative is meant to come across in the piece, merely the piece can serve as a catalyst for each individual to recognize or remember his/her own iconic American hero or story.



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The Story

I purchased this item at a UMHS fundraiser around the year 1991. We were raising money for one of our geriatric programs. This pin was created by an elderly individual from a chipped eyeglass lens and a reused card. It has brought much to my mind over the years. Here is a list of some of those reflections:

- A handmade item constructed of re-usable materials for the sole purpose of raising money for a worthy cause.

- A small contribution when combined with otThis is a symbol of my support for ecological endeavors and for the well being of the elderly through the years.
- The chipped lens confirmed my belief that while no one is perfect, we can all be reshaped into something valued and treasured.
- The scene on the pin shows an all-American farm with a red barn and a flag waving in the front yard. There are mountains in the background. Our strength as a nation is in our land and in those who reside on it. We must do all we can to preserve our land for future generations. Let us continue to unite under the flag of freedom so dearly paid for.
- History always repeats itself, so let us continuously learn from what has gone before.
- My small pin will be included in a major piece of UMHS artwork for all to behold... “a gift of art” ...yay!