

Alexis Newton  
Re-Purposed Treasures

## Artist Statement

For the Re-Purposed Treasures project, I was presented with a ceramic ashtray. The ashtray belonged to a person who had planned to give it to a friend as a gift, but before she could, she learned that her friend had quit smoking. She donated the object in hopes that it could take on a new life, representative of the new smoke-free life of her friend.



I chose to break the colorfully decorated ashtray into many pieces, to symbolize how the friend had broken her smoking habit. I arranged the pieces into a “bib” style necklace and included other various green objects throughout the composition, representing the friend’s favorite color. I integrated copper into the design to represent sterility and its use in the medical field. I also took into consideration the green patina quality of copper that is exposed to air for a long time, further hinting at the narrative behind the piece.

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Kodi Scheer  
Re-Purposed Treasures

## The Story

### Rising from the Ashes

I bought this handmade ashtray in Bulgaria, for a friend, whose favorite color is green. When I returned home, she told me she’d quit smoking. I was so excited for her, not to mention her lungs. But I had to re-appropriate the gifts I’d brought, so she got rose petal soap instead. Now the ashtray has no home. I hope the ashes of her old life will give rise to something new and beautiful.