

of work. When you've worked on [a piece], it's yours forever. You don't have to own it."

More concerned with the original masterpiece than its modern-day owner, Van Sciver works, tediously with needle and thread, to match the rug's look and style as closely as possible.

"The rug is my customer," she says.

But sometimes, her customers are too worn or damaged for restoration. That's where the garage sales come in.

When Van Sciver is done scouting out antiques stores for rugs and textiles, she heads to garage sales to hunt down old ottomans. She covers the furniture with salvageable rug scraps, giving the pieces a completely new look. She also crafts throw pillows and pillbox hats from the textile leftovers.

"You could throw it out or make it into something," she says, grabbing a hat off the shelf. She slips the hat on, explaining, "They look good on so many people."

"It's nice to give [the rugs] a second life as something gorgeous."

It's so nice, apparently, that Van Sciver has stockpiled scores of the remarkable rug crafts, peddling them at arts-and-craft shows and even in her own home.

Her next peddling opportunity is October 18-19, when she and 34 other artisans will convene at her home for an arts-and-crafts show.

Her life revolves around reviving decaying masterpieces, recycling

them into new art, and sharing the fruits of her work with others. For a die-hard fixer-upper like Van Sciver, this must be a dream come true — not to mention the fact that she can wear jeans and mules to work everyday.



"I don't see myself retiring because I like this. I expect to be doing this for a very long time ... or as long as my eyes last," she says, picking up the glasses that dangle on a chain around her neck.

She slips the glasses on, leans over her drafting table, and sets to work resurrecting another ancient masterpiece. ❖

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