



Olivia Marciano & Pippa Adam **MassArt** *What Is the MassArt ReStore?*

Tell us a little bit about yourselves.

Pippa: I'm from a lot of places, mostly the midwest. I came to MassArt because I wanted to be in Massachusetts where my family is originally from--I was also attracted to going to a public state school, and the 3D facilities and programs were very appealing. I'm a sculpture major in my junior year. I love the sculpture program because of the diverse range of materials and processes, and the different interests and skills of my classmates. There's also a passion here for reusing materials--we are notorious for hoarding old things--that aligns with the ReStore mission.

Olivia: I am from a small town in southern Connecticut. I am a sophomore, and I was an education major but recently switched my major to sculpture, which I found to be more fitting for what I want to do with my life (make art). I picked MassArt because I had family in the area growing up, and always knew I wanted to go to school in Boston. MassArt seemed like the obvious choice as the best art school for me in the area. I do not regret this decision. Through work with the ReStore I have become involved in SGA and sustainability initiatives at MassArt and surrounding schools. This year has been this busiest and most involved for me as I took on a managing position at the store, and I could not be happier watching it grow and helping people who desperately need something for free!

Tell us about the MassArt ReStore

The ReStore was founded in 2009 by a group of sustainability-conscious students who wanted a space on campus dedicated to upcycling materials and resources that people no longer

needed--finding new life for unwanted things. For about three years we had a small closet space in the Tower building which has evolved into our new, much larger, basement space in the Kennedy building, around the corner from the MCPHS/MassArt school store. We also have a few plastic bins around campus that act as mini 24/7 ReStores. Everything we have is donated to us, available for free to whomever can make use of it.

The ReStore has taught us that just about any object can take on a new life. We're always impressed by the ingenuity and generosity of our visitors. We see a lot of interesting objects enter the Store--some even come back, multiple times, showing us their different lives.

Now that we're self-sustaining and recognized around the MassArt campus, our goal for this academic year has been to spread the visibility of the ReStore across the COF sphere and beyond. We've developed a lot of great relationships in our six years of existence and we're committed to keeping those bonds. We've been forming new bonds on an almost-weekly basis recently since we've set out to expose ourselves to surrounding schools and the local community. Our ultimate goal is to reach out to other COF schools and help them start their own ReStore.

Over winter break we received several amazing donations from different sources inside and outside MassArt. This has given us a ton of really amazing proposal items for the Spring semester, including a variety of sewing machines, mannequins, an iMac, etc. Anybody is encouraged to come to the Store, check them out, and write a proposal to try and win the item! Our volunteer staff reads the proposals anonymously to decide who deserves the item the most. We hope that a lot of people will come to the store and check us out. We love questions and new friends!