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MidMo Etsy: Elaine Durchholz and Sugar Maple Lake

by BECKY NEEMS on NOVEMBER 23, 2013 7:00 PM · NO COMMENTS

Elaine Durchholz finds her own way to keep warm this winter. She crochets scarves, boot cuffs, hats and ear warps for her etsy shop [Sugar Maple Lake](#). Durchholz had her first showcase at the [Holiday Wine and Cheese Festival](#) yesterday at the [Columbia Country Club](#). Before the event she spoke with us about her crochet items on her shop as well as her artwork on her [self-titled etsy shop](#).



Photo courtesy of Elaine Durchholz.

Vox Talk: It's your first time showcasing your items. How did you find out about the festival?

Durchholz: They found me on Etsy. They were looking for some local vendors to have at their event I was excited to be a part of it. Previous to this I was just on Etsy selling to friends, through work and family members.

VT: When did you start crocheting?

Durchholz: I've been crocheting since I was 10. I look online for patterns. I try as I go, designing as I work.

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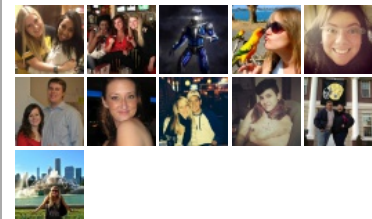
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VT: When did you put the items on Etsy?

Durchholz: I started my shop last winter. It was funny how it started. I broke my left hand from a car accident. I realized at that time that I can't crochet if that arm's broken. I had a thumb cast. It took a longtime to heal, so I couldn't crochet. Finally after I got it off I made a ton of stuff. I thought "Well, I've given all my friends stuff, what am I going to do with all of this?" I had a lot of friends tell me how much they liked it. So I started a shop. I had several sales in the middle of December last year.

VT: What are some of the items in your shop?

Durchholz: I have lots of scarves, cowls (tube scarves), hats and boot cuffs. Sometimes boots are too tight down at the ankle to wear thick socks. It's nice to have a little edge of color peeping out of the top of your boot.



Photo courtesy of Elaine Durchholz.

VT: How do you come up with your designs such as the boot cuffs?

Durchholz: I've seen people wearing them. I saw them on Etsy. I developed some of my own patterns like lacy designs, give a little frilly edge. Bobbles are my favorite pattern as well as the stars and adding those for fun textures.

VT: What other things do you crochet?

Durchholz: I make circle scarves, triangle scarves and ear wraps. I make ones that have a star pattern almost like a snowflake. Bobbles are my favorite pattern as well as the stars. I add those for fun textures. I have a hard time making anything simple. I like interesting patterns. I also have new hats with pom poms. I just started making them. I've got a bunch ready for the country club show.

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Photo courtesy of Elaine Durchholz.

VT: How long does it take for you to crochet an item? How many hours do you spend maintaining the shop?

Durchholz: I spend 20+ hours a week on the shop. Depending on the items, hats and boot cuffs take a couple hours (to make). Some of the scarves take up to six to 10 hours.

VT: What's the most popular?

Durchholz: Lacy scarves were popular last year. I've sold a few ear wraps. It's a double thickness and soft acrylic yarn. It's machine washable. They fit loosely so they don't make a crease on the hair. Even with the tassel hats.

VT: Do you have anything planned for the new year?

Durchholz: I want to progress into stuff for kids. Like cute little hats especially for new born babies during photo shoots. I also want to get into working with all natural fibers. I can get them from a friend's local alpaca farm, [Alpacas d'Auxvasse](#). Alpaca wool is super warm. I like the idea of supporting other small businesses. I'm kind of a hippy about using natural fibers.



Photo courtesy of Elaine Durchholz.

VT: What about your self-titled Etsy shop where you sell artwork? What types of things can be found on there?

Durchholz: I do water color and colored pencil drawing. I also do portrait commissions. I've been getting into pet portraits. Other than that, my original work I like to do is flowers. I've drawn (inspiration) from nature a lot.

VT: Which shop do you think is most popular?

Durchholz: It goes in between both (shops) a lot. It depends on whichever I'm focusing on, painting or crocheting.

Visit [Sugar Maple Lake](#) and [Elaine Durchholz](#) on Etsy.

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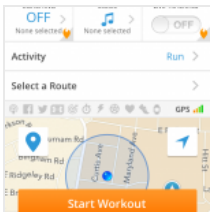
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