

BEST ANTIQUE STORE**Vintage Hardware**

Astoria, Oregon

Runner-up: Farmhouse Funk, Astoria**Honorable Mention:** Phog Bounders Antique Mall, Astoria

By LYNETTE RAE McADAMS

display their overabundance of talent.

Settled in and feeling at home in their fifth (and they say final) retail space, Vintage Hardware owners Becky Johnson and Paul Tuter have put their all into making their new downtown spot better than ever before — and if you know anything about these two, that's saying a lot. The design duo, who joined forces with each other nearly a decade ago, have knocked down walls, created new space, and flooded their 10,000-square-foot location on Marine Drive with streams of natural and enhanced lighting, setting the perfect stage on which to

The recent move, which happened last fall, was difficult and unexpected, but perhaps, in the end, worth it, says Johnson, adding, "our customers keep telling us it's their favorite spot so far." Take some time to wander through the vast array of inventory, and it's easy to see why.

Fashioned in small vignettes that each embrace a theme, the store's displays feel so authentic and charming that it's a bit like shopping in a museum. Renewed and recycled, or "upcycled" items, are tinkered with, repaired



PHOTO BY LYNETTE RAE McADAMS

Displays at Vintage Hardware make a stroll through this award-winning antique salvage shop a pleasure.

and repurposed in the studio spaces of the artist/owners before hitting the floor, where they each play their own dramatic role. Here, Underwood typewriters pair up with vintage lamps and household furnishings, authentic ship's wheels point the way to an enormous rack of glass fishing floats, and a line of big game trophies guard a wall

full of decorative knobs and drawer pulls — one of the store's best sellers and which Johnson refers to as, "jewelry for your furniture."

There are four-poster beds and luggage trunks from the last century, fine porcelain toilets and hinges from Victorian kitchen cupboards, ornate armoires and the rugged frame of an old covered wag-



PHOTO BY LYNETTE RAE McADAMS

Check out Vintage Hardware's new home at 1162 Marine Drive.

on. Dishes, banisters, finials, bedsprings, lushly upholstered chairs, music stands, clothing, dress forms, window shutters, architectural columns, old farm tables and so much more — all come together in a grand hodgepodge of creativity that's fit for any antique lover or homeowner looking to refurbish or restore.

Bring your list of must-haves for your retro remodel,

and get some help tracking down those hard-to-find items, or simply roam the store looking for inspiration for your next project. Whether you're looking to complete one of your own ideas or needing to borrow one of theirs, it will soon be obvious how Astoria's Vintage Hardware defended its title as Best Antique Store once again.

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