

# Displaying Historic Textiles



INTERNATIONAL  
PRESERVATION  
STUDIES  
CENTER

# What is a Textile?



# Origins of Fibers

- Plant
- Animal
- Synthetic



# Plant Fibers

- Seed fibers (cotton, kapoc, etc.)
- Bast fibers (linen, hemp, jute, etc.)
- Leaf fibers (raffia, banana, etc.)
- Bark cloth





# Animal Fibers

- Wool (sheep, alpaca, angora, etc.)
- Hide
- Fur
- Hair
- Silk



# Synthetics

- Polyester
- Acrylic
- Nylon
- Vinyl
- Fiberglass
- Rayon
- Kevlar



# Fiber Composition

- Plant—Cellulose is the primary component of the cell walls of green plants.
- Animal—Protein is a large molecule composed of one or more chains of amino acids and are an essential part of all living organisms.
- Synthetic—a natural or chemically produced material processed into a staple fiber.



# Fiber pH

- Plant—Cellulose—Basic
- Animal—Protein—Acidic
- Synthetic—Often neutral

# Agents of Deterioration



# Agents of Deterioration

- Use
- Soil
- Light
- Temperature/Relative Humidity
- Pests



# Use

- Wear/Use
- Handling
- Display



# Soil

- Body oils and perspiration
- Atmospheric pollution
- Dust, dirt and droppings
- Archaeological context



# Light

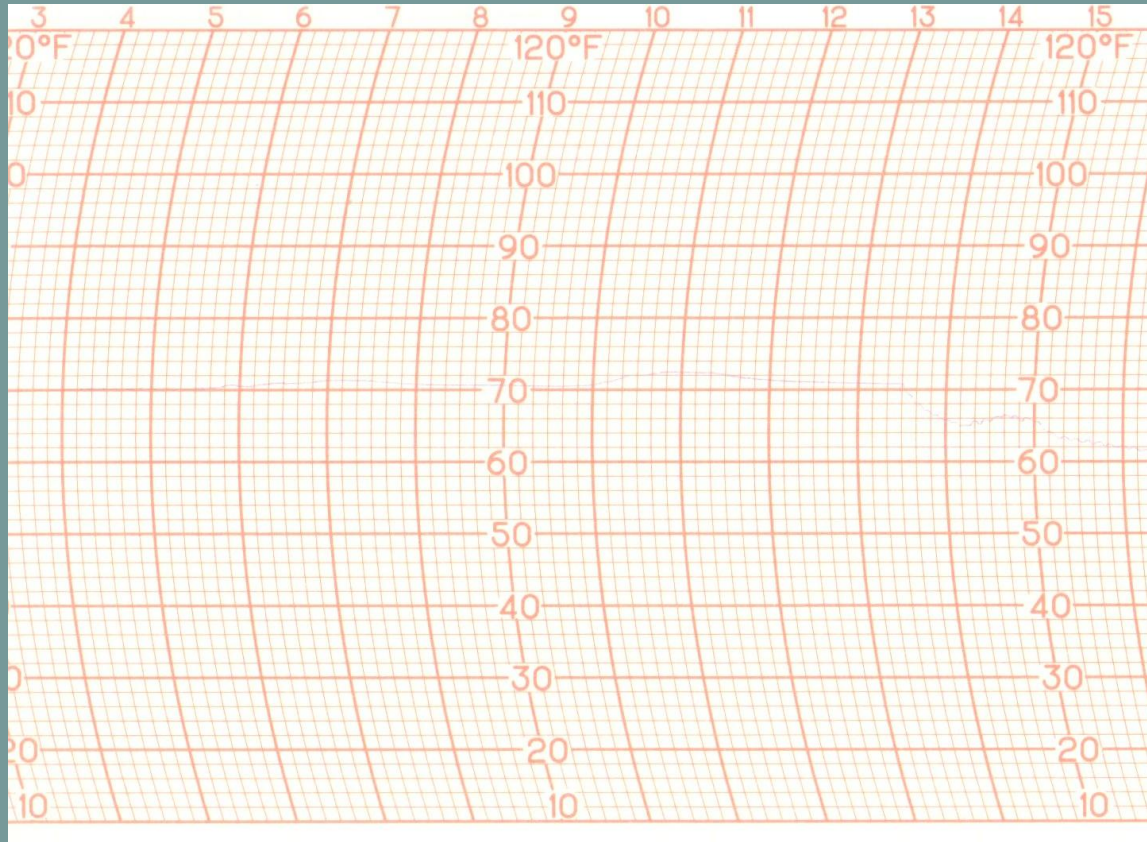
- Both visible and UV
- Not just color change





# Temperature & RH

- Fluctuations cause greatest damage



# Pests

- Rodents
- Insects
- Microbial activity



# Mitigating Agents of Deterioration

- Use
- Soil
- Light
- Temperature/Relative Humidity
- Pests



# Use

- Never wear historic costume
- Minimize walking, sitting, etc.
- Display only stable items
- Rotate objects on display



# Soil

- Regular housekeeping
- Proper display and storage
- Understand your collection
- Appreciate patina



# Light

- Minimize light exposure
- Keep things away from windows
- Use UV filtration



# Temperature & RH

- Don't store objects in attics or basements
- Get rid of highs and lows
- Monitor and evaluate
- Avoid stagnant air





# Pests

- Control access from outside
- Stable environment
- Housekeeping
- Proper Storage

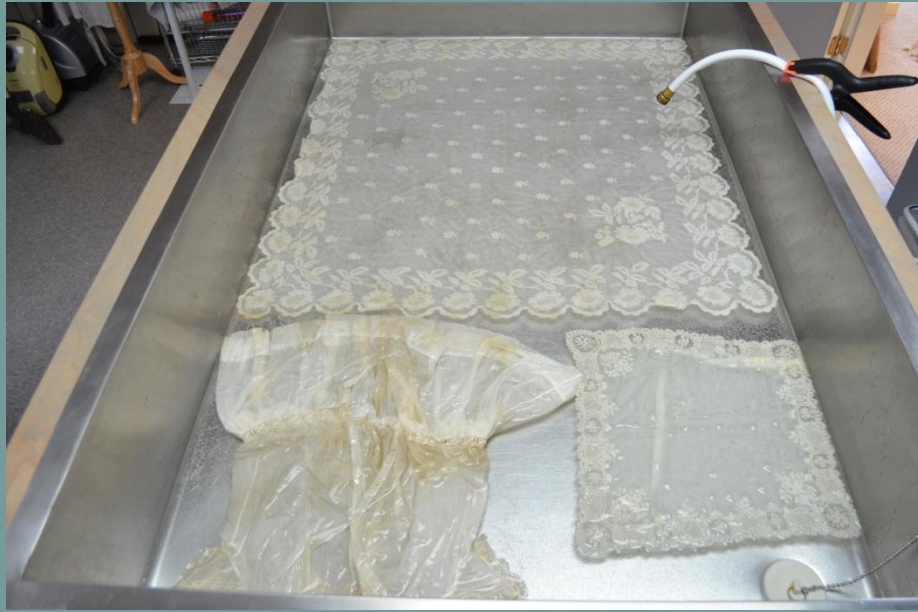


# Preparing textiles for display



















# Break



# Safe Methods of Display



## Methods of attachment

- Passive
- Pinned
- Stitched
- Pressure
- Magnetic

## Forms of display

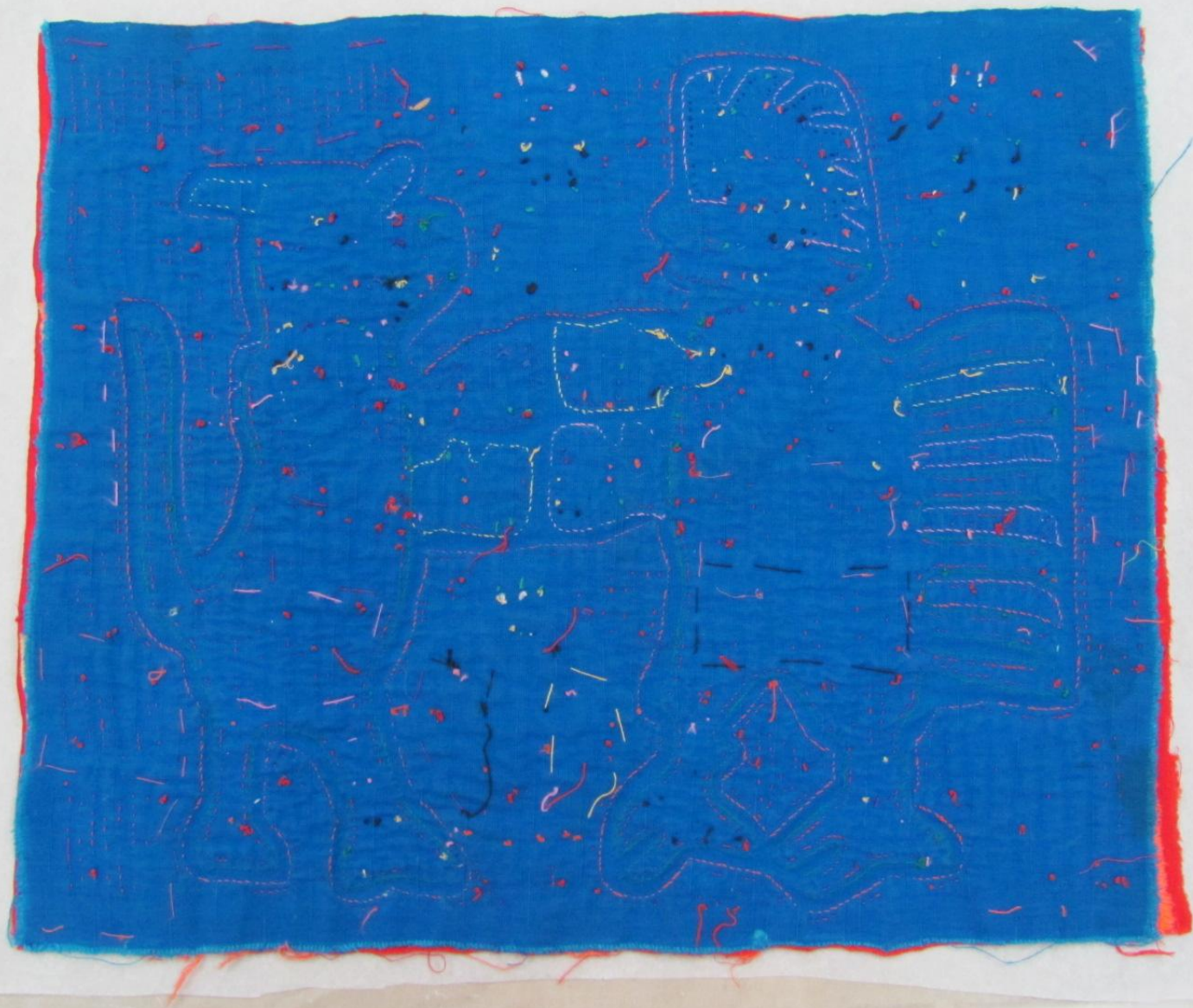
- Case deck
- Board / Slant board
- Rod / Manikin
- Frame
- Shadow box
- Slat

# Passive Display















# Pinned Mount





# Stitched Mount













# Pressure Mount



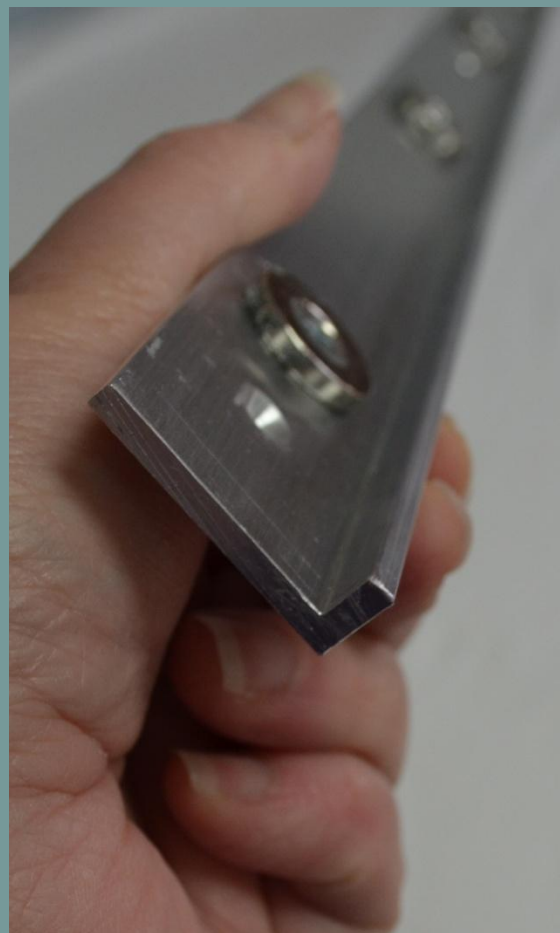


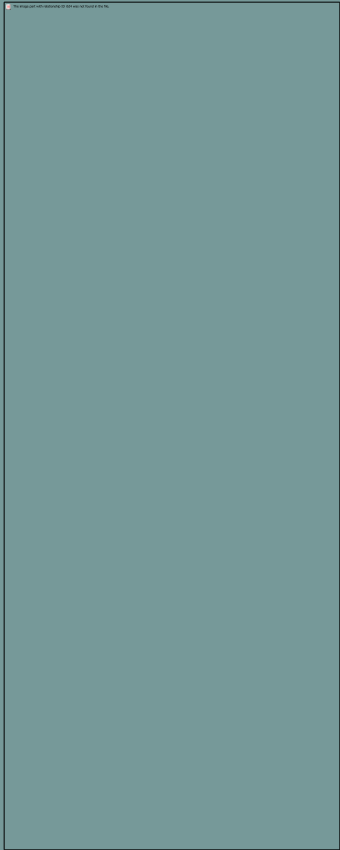
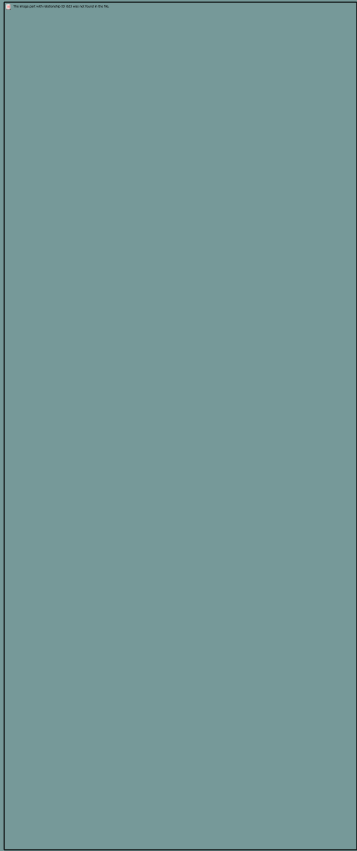
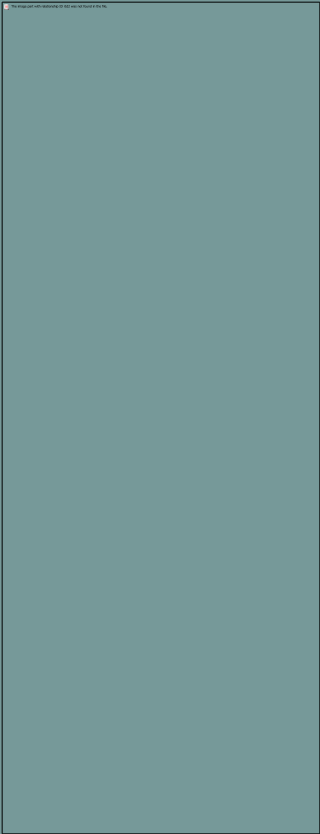


# Magnetic Mount









# Variables of Support

- Angle
- Pressure
- Attachment









- Determining factors
  - Condition
  - Location
  - Resources









# Slat





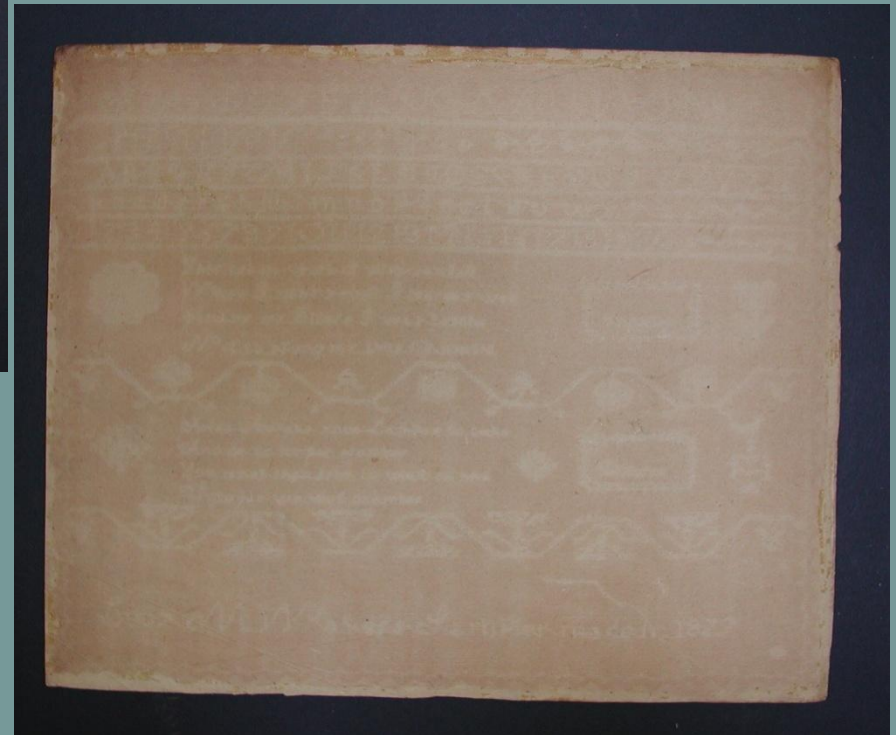
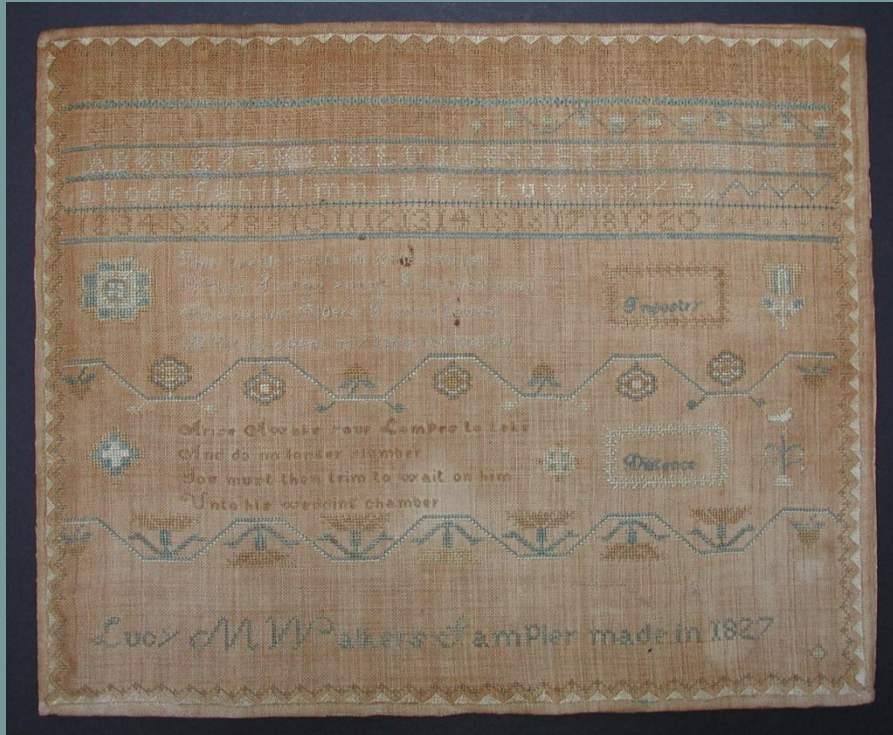






# Exercises

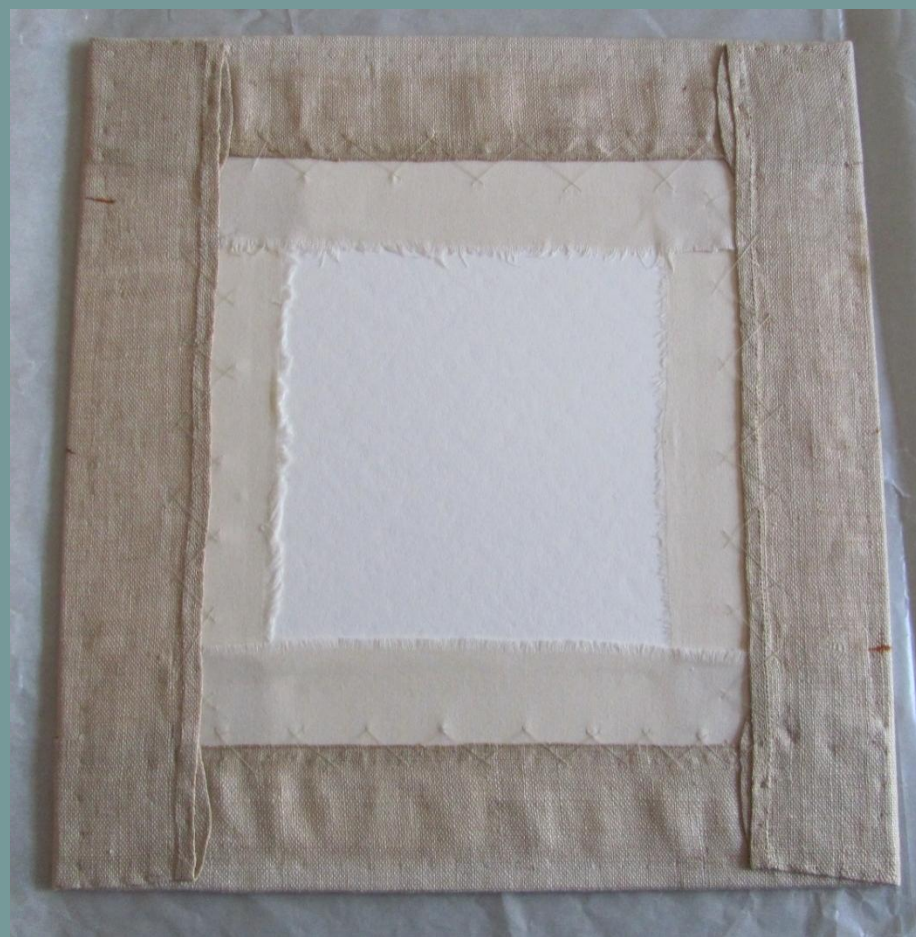
# Mounting Board





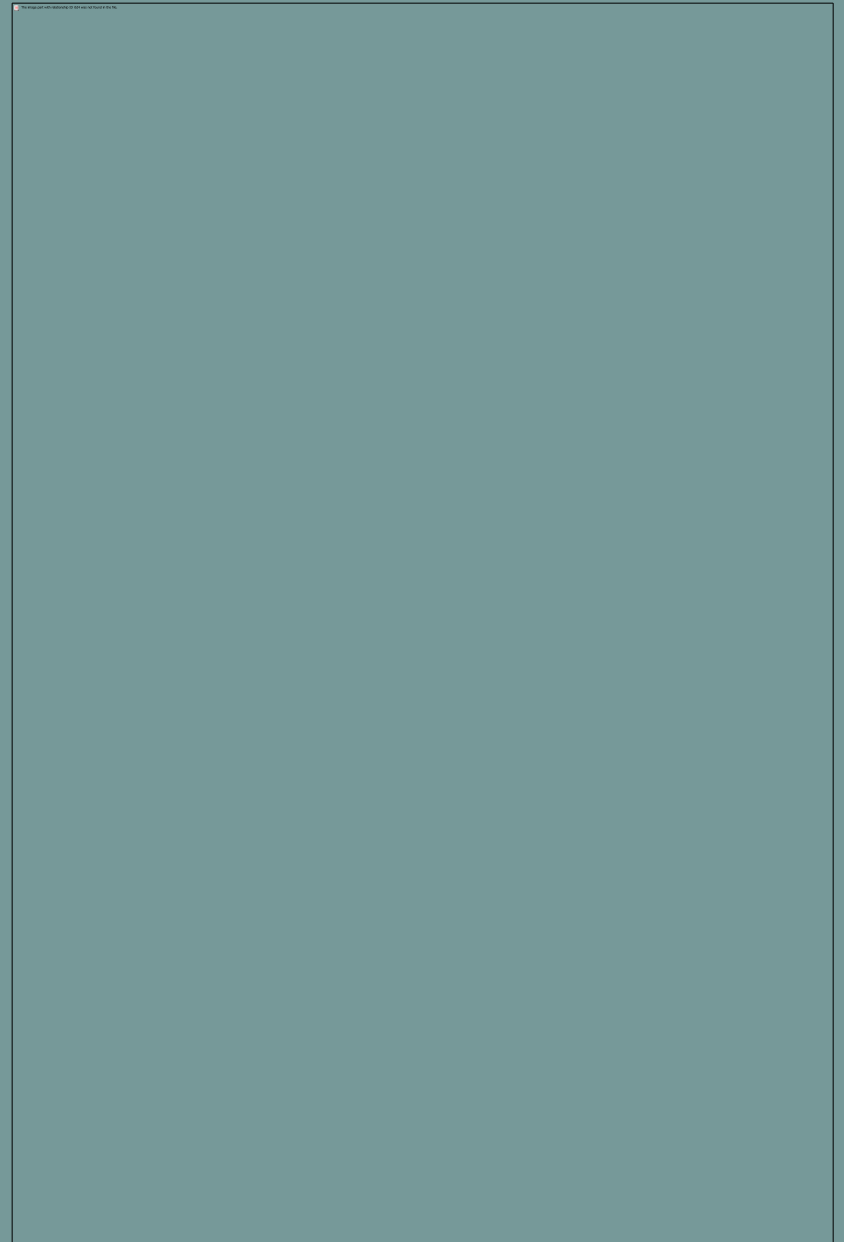






# Rod and Pocket









# Frame









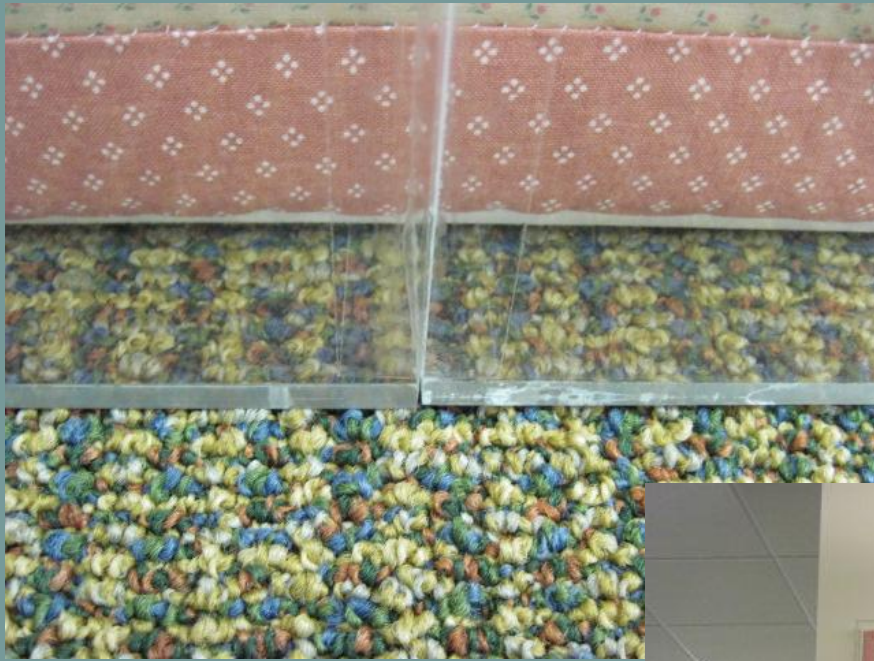
# Shadow Box













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No.	Interior (H x W x D)	Overall (H x W x D)	Price Each	<b>SALE</b>
<b>STANDARD ACRYLIC</b>				
GR-AWC1717	17 x 17 x 2"	17 1/2 x 17 1/2 x 3"	\$299.00	<b>\$254.15</b>
GR-AWC1919	19 x 19 x 2"	19 1/2 x 19 1/2 x 3"	339.00	<b>288.15</b>
GR-AWC1923	19 x 23 x 2"	19 1/2 x 23 1/2 x 3"	365.00	<b>310.25</b>
GR-AWC2323	23 x 23 x 2"	23 1/2 x 23 1/2 x 3"	399.00	<b>339.15</b>
GR-AWC2731	27 x 31 x 2"	27 1/2 x 31 1/2 x 3"	509.00	<b>432.65</b>
GR-AWC3333	33 x 33 x 2"	33 1/2 x 33 1/2 x 3"	599.00	<b>509.15</b>

# Conclusion

- Choose suitable objects
- Prioritize care over exhibition
- Do nothing until you know what to do
- Use proper conservation materials and methods
- Establish policies and practices