



## Museum Textile Services

### Hanging Large Textiles

- Before a textile is unfolded make sure there is adequate floor space for both the textile and the people walking around it. The floor should be swept and a bed sheet or a clean piece of polyethylene sheeting placed as a drop cloth. If you are hanging more than one textile, mark the drop cloth so that if it is folded and unfolded a textile is never put on the floor side. Fiber will sometimes accumulate on the drop cloth after each textile. This should be wiped or shaken off so it does not transfer to the next textile. Never stand or walk on a textile.
- Turning a large textile over should be done with at least two people. The best way is to use a clean cardboard or PVC tube, rolling the textile up and unrolling off backwards. To turn without a tube, take opposite corners, holding in as far as your hand will reach, and flip one side over. Do not attempt to flip it all the way over in one try. Pick the edge up together and proceed in small steps until the textile is at least three-quarters flipped. The opposite edge can then be folded back and the rest of the textile flipped out from underneath.
- To straighten wrinkles and folds, do not pull on the textile. Hold the edge and quickly lift the textile a bit, sending a layer of air underneath, and readjust the textile before it settles onto the floor again. Practice on a blanket or the drop cloth before attempting this on a textile, as it is an acquired skill.
- Lay the textile face-up with the top parallel to the wall it is going on, and the top edge flipped back about twelve inches. In order to attach a large textile to its Velcro hanging slat, lay the slat on top of the Velcro on the textile and firmly press up from underneath to assure there is full contact between the two Velcro strips. Using at least two people, raise the slat carefully along with the textile to meet the hanging hardware that is on the wall.
- Once the textile is on the wall it will probably need adjustment from a ladder. Most textiles that have hung are dog-eared—that is they are higher at the corners and dip in the center—or they are longer on one side than the other. When a textile is hung straight across the top edge without taking this into account, the result are vertical waves radiating in from the sides. This can be fixed by gently pulling the textile away from the Velcro batten and raising the corners, or lowering the center. The two-inch height of the Velcro strips means you can raise or lower the textile as much as one and one-half inches either up or down and there will still be enough contact to hold the textile. Be sure to firmly press the textile back onto the Velcro after adjustments have been made. Step back from the textile and check to see if the overall appearance of the textile is straight, not necessarily the sides or bottom and top.
- To take a large textile down, place the polyethylene sheeting on the floor below it. Gently take the batten off the wall and accordion, or flake the textile down onto the plastic. Remove the batten. Several people should then line up holding the top edge and, again trying to make a cushion of air to ride on, open the textile by stepping quickly backwards. Be sure to synchronize everyone, and be firm and quick. Slow action just makes the textile abrade across itself for longer. Roll the textile for transport or storage.