

# SCROLLS

Scrolls are an interesting way to present work that's been created on a variety of surfaces, including parchment, papyrus, paper, fabric or synthetic material. Like altered books, found scroll-like objects can also be used as the basis for scrolls. In the accompanying illustrations, you



see a collection of objects that have the potential for becoming scrolls, including a souvenir from India, a player piano roll, a snakeskin in a clear plastic brush holder and a roll of brown paper with wire in the edges used on large Christmas wreaths.

## Helpful Hints

- If you are using images or words from other artists and writers, be sure they are in the public domain, or get permission to incorporate them into your work.
- The bottom of the accordion pages and the bottom of the covers should sit evenly on the table so that the book stands level and doesn't tilt.
- An accordion attached within a box may tend to go downhill when opened if the inside of the box is higher than the table or shelf on which the box sits.
- Although many accordions have nothing on the back side, extending your concept can add significantly to the presentation. After I thought I was finished with *Viewpoint*, I decided to relate to the inkjet print on the front side with a pastel and colored pencil landscape on the back.
- In addition to being dimensionally stable, most synthetic materials don't fray and require no hemming, making them ideal for banners and scrolls.
- Remember, many desktop printers can print up to 44" (112cm) in length—good for accordions or scrolls.
- To tear an oriental paper with visible fibers, use a small, wet brush to draw down the edge of the ruler. This will wet the fiber and weaken it to make tearing easier. Hold the ruler firmly in place as you tear.
- You can use almost any slick surface for sizing fabric. Glass, polypropylene and Formica all work well and, if you're willing to clean them afterward, a shower door or glass slider is usually handy.
- Editioning can be labor intensive and boring. Any templates you can make to speed the process of marking, cutting and folding, will be helpful. Also, instead of completing each book before going on to the next, consider an assembly line where you do all the marking, all the cutting, all the folding. At the opposite extreme, some artists choose to make one book, then, as it is sold, make another to replace it.





**Monkey Grip, 2004, 4 1/2" x 16 1/2" (11cm x 42cm) paper collage scroll in box 4 1/2" x 2" (11cm x 5cm) diameter**

Year-of-the-monkey laser cutouts were glued onto separate sheets of oriental joss paper then pasted to a continuous backing. After spending time in a cylindrical Monkey Grip tire patch can, the scroll took on an interesting scalloped effect.



**Holga, 2007, 2 1/4" x 32" (6cm x 81cm) in clear acrylic container with black ends 2 1/2" x 7 1/2" (6cm x 19cm) scroll of film, printed copper foil and tape**

Developed film taken with an inexpensive Holga camera was transformed into a scroll with the addition of black tape and printed copper adhesive-backed foil. A clear plastic tube became the transparent housing for this small scroll that is loosely rolled so the light will still pass through it when closed.

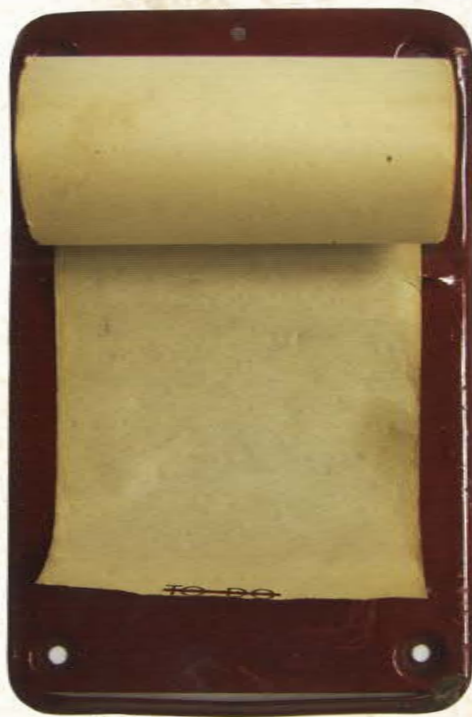
**Fragile, 2007, 5 1/2" x 32" (14cm x 81cm) hanging scroll of fabric and natural material**

For a hanging scroll, leaves were sewn into a hollow ribbon with gold thread. As the leaves dried, they became fragile. If this scroll were rolled, the leaves would disintegrate. The ribbon is wrapped and secured with brass brads to a small square dowel with gold-painted ends.



**From the Tree, 2007, 1 1/2" x 12" (4cm x 30cm) paper scroll in carved box 3 3/4" x 3" (10cm x 8cm) diameter**

A small scroll was made in Seattle to fit into a wood purchased box made from a hollowed-out piece of tree. The top pivots open on a pin to reveal the inner space.



**To Do, 2008, 5 1/2" x 3 1/2" x 1 1/4" (14cm x 9cm x 4cm) paper scroll (unknown length) on metal hanging stand**

A vintage metal stand with a roll of paper for making grocery lists became *To Do*. Rub-on letters, crossed out, were added across the bottom of the paper roll as both the title and a commentary on making lists.



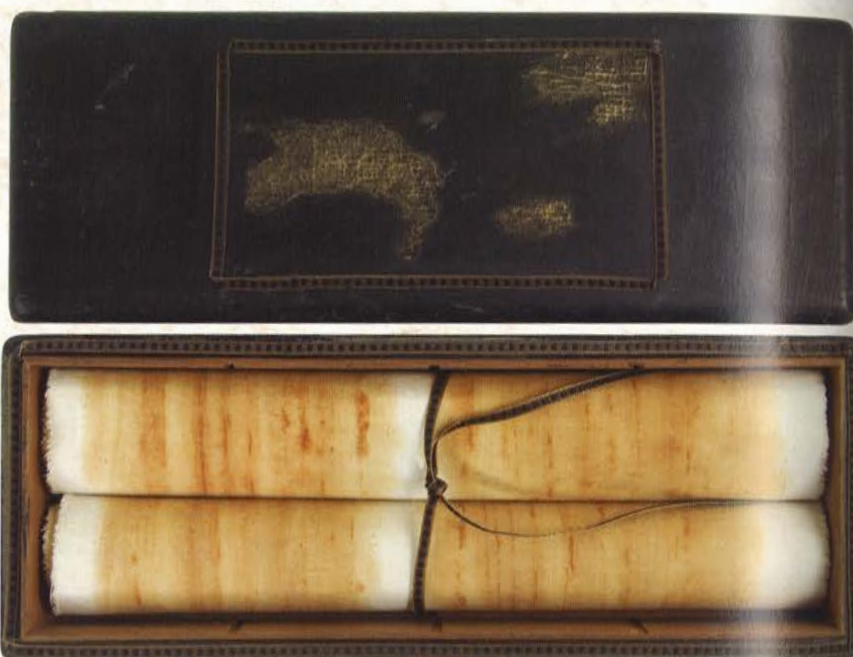
# SCROLL ON FABRIC

## Materials

- Substrate that can be rolled
- Sizing material, if needed
- Collage, painting, drawing and writing materials of your choice
- Glue or adhesive as needed
- Brush
- Folder
- Box or other housing

As you begin to think about making a scroll, consider the various shapes, widths, lengths and range of materials you might use. You can design it to roll or hang vertically or horizontally, to stand, to be unfurled on a surface or to remain in its housing. If you choose to close your scroll, you may attach one or both ends around a core, rod or baton for support, and you may roll it all in one direction or roll each end toward the center.

For another project, I had placed rusting metal on a piece of muslin. I decided to use a leftover piece that resembled faded writing.



Long ago and far away, 2008, 19 1/2" (50cm) · unknown length, fabric scroll in wooden box 3 1/2" x 20 1/4" x 2 1/2" (9cm x 51cm x 6cm)

1. Choose a substrate for your scroll that can be rolled. Because the rusted muslin I chose was weak, I laid it against a full-sized mirror, coated it heavily with wheat paste and let it dry overnight. The wheat paste, like starch or sizing, gave the fabric body. In this case, because the fabric edges had been torn, it left the raw edge but stopped any potential fraying.
2. Consider how you will present your scroll. A box, the same length as the width of my scroll, had some shapes on the cover, left by a torn-off paper label, that looked a bit like islands or continents. I decided to enhance them by brushing over the surface with a gold watercolor pigment. I touched a stiff brush into cold wax medium then into the pigment and lightly rubbed it onto the crackled surface. I used a woven fabric trim to wrap around the scroll and tie, to cover the inside edge of the box and to outline the "lands" on the box lid.



# SCROLL ON NONWOVEN FABRIC

This scroll began with strips of UV-cured ink that were salvaged from the cleaning of a flatbed printer, used primarily for sign-making. Bonny Lhotka thought I might find them interesting, and mailed these fragile paint skins to me rolled around a paper towel core and interleaved with paper towels.

Substrate that can be rolled

Collage, painting, drawing and writing materials of your choice

Nails or staple gun and heavy-duty staples

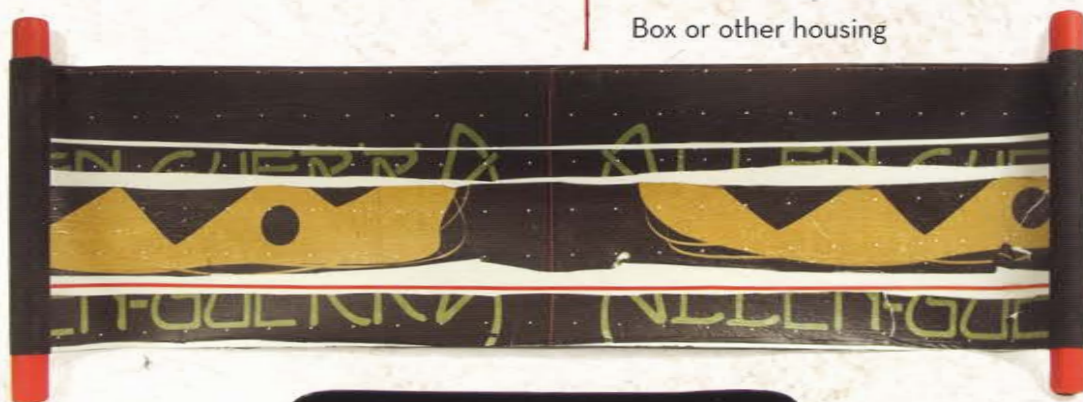
Glue or adhesive as needed

Brush

Folder

End rods, if desired

Box or other housing



Signs, 2008, 9" x 35" (23cm x 89cm) fabric scroll in box 3 3/4" x 12 1/4" x 3 3/4" (10cm x 31cm x 10cm)



1. Choose a substrate for your scroll that can be rolled. I chose a piece of textured spun-bonded polyester. I painted pearl metallic on the front and black gesso on the back. I added a bright red ribbon and glued it and the skins to the polyester with gel medium, rubbing lightly with a folder to adhere the fragile skins to the surface.

2. Decide how you will roll your scroll. The box I wanted to use to house this scroll was longer than the scroll was wide, so I decided to adjust the length of two rods to make up the difference. I cut two pieces from a broom handle, sanded the cut ends and painted them with red acrylic paint. I measured and

aligned the midpoints and stapled the scroll to the rods so that they would roll toward the center. I coated the rods well with craft adhesive and turned them until the staples were hidden inside the roll.

3. Consider how you will present your scroll. Recognizing that signage was probably the source of my collage materials, I added the title "Signs" to the pasteboard box with a white pencil and a stencil. I underlined the title with a strip of the same red ribbon collaged onto the scroll. When the rolled scroll is placed in the box, with each rod rolled toward the center, only the ends of the rods and the black outside of the scroll are visible. Opened, Signs reveals colorful references to its former life.



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