

## **Mannequins, Mounts and Museums- Cost Effective Ways of Displaying Your Collection**

### **Where to Begin**

- 1. Assess your collection. How many textile items do you have in your collection and how many are going to be on display at one time?
- 2. How much space do you have? What type of gallery space or rooms do you have? How much of the area will be needed to display your textiles?
- 3. Budget. How much do you have to spend on materials needed to display your collection? Can those materials be used for storage as well?
- 4. What are your resources for preparation? How many staff/volunteers do you need to help prepare the objects for exhibition?

### **What Materials Are Safe to Use?**

- 1. Polyethylene- sheeting, ethafoam (pool noodles), Volara, bubble wrap, Tyvek
- 2. Polyester- batting (spunbonded), knit, woven, and non-woven fabrics (Remay, Hollytex), Mylar film, Vivak
- 3. Cotton- knit and woven fabrics, medical stockinette, twill tape, thread
- 4. Plexiglas or Acrylic- in the form of sheets or rods
- 5. Polypropylene- Coroplast sheets
- 6. Acid free boards- E-flute, matboard
- 7. Nylon- fabrics and stocking
- 8. Stainless steel silk pins, needles and T-pins (entomology pins)

### **Other usable materials- These cannot be in direct contact with artifacts and can only be used for a short time**

- 1. Polystyrene- in the form of hangers that can be padded
- 2. PVC- polyvinyl chloride- some sheeting and other plastics
- 3. Poly Vinyl Acetate- found in paints and adhesives (use low VOC products)
- 4. Urea formaldehyde- Gatorfoam panels (create at least a 2-layer barrier)
- 5. Fiberglas- mannequins and forms (cover with padding or fabric first)

## **Bibliography/Sources**

### **Books**

Flecker, Lara. **A Practical Guide to Costume Mounting**. Oxford: Butterworth-Heinemann, 2007.

Blum, Margot and White, Joanne, editors. **Museum Mannequins**, Alberta Regional Group of Conservators, 2002.

Barclay, Robert; Bergeron, André and Dignard, Carole. **Mount-making for Museum Objects** Ottawa : Canadian Conservation Institute, 2002.

### **Websites**

**Northern States Conservation Center** <http://www.collectioncare.org/exhibiting>

**AIC wiki** [http://www.conservation-wiki.com/wiki/TSG\\_Chapter\\_VI\\_Treatment\\_of\\_Textiles\\_-\\_Section\\_K\\_Supports\\_and\\_Mounts](http://www.conservation-wiki.com/wiki/TSG_Chapter_VI_Treatment_of_Textiles_-_Section_K_Supports_and_Mounts)

**AIC wiki** <http://www.conservation-wiki.com/wiki/Fosshape>

**Connecting to Collections webinar** <http://www.connectingtocollections.org/mountinggarments/>

#### **Striking a Pose: The Display of Hollywood Costume**

Sam Gatley & Roisin Morris (2015) Striking a Pose: The Display of Hollywood Costume, *Costume*, 49:1, 75-90, DOI: 10.1179/0590887614Z.00000000064  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1179/0590887614Z.00000000064>

**Andover Figures** <http://www.museumtextiles.com/uploads/7/8/9/0/7890082/resourceguide.pdf>

**Dorfman Museum Figures**- 6224 Holabird Ave., Baltimore, MD 21224 • 410.284.3248 • 410.284.3249 fax 800.634.4873 • [www.museumfigures.com](http://www.museumfigures.com) • [info@museumfigures.com](mailto:info@museumfigures.com)

**Smithsonian Institution**- [http://www.si.edu/mci/english/learn\\_more/taking\\_care/supplier.html](http://www.si.edu/mci/english/learn_more/taking_care/supplier.html)

### **Supplies**

#### **Gaylord Archival**

PO Box 4901  
Syracuse, NY 13221-4901  
Phone: 1.800.448.6160  
Fax: 1.800.272.3412  
[Gaylord.com](http://Gaylord.com)

#### **University Products Inc.**

517 Main Street  
Holyoke, MA 01040  
1.800.628.1912 phone  
1.800.532.9281 fax  
[Universityproducts.com](http://Universityproducts.com)

These are your main suppliers of all archival mounting materials. Acid free board, rag board, acid free paper, Tyvek, Volara, cotton twill tape, ethafoam planks, etc.

**Test Fabrics, Inc.-** unsized cotton fabrics, twill tape and other archival materials

P. O. Box 26 West Pittson, PA 18643

(717) 603-0432

<http://www.testfabrics.com>

**Buffalo Felt-** - unsized polyester felt for flat mounts and mannequins (Kapmat 4.5oz)

Buffalo Felt Products Corp.

14 Ransier Drive

West Seneca

NY 14224

Phone: (716) 674-7990

Fax: (716) 674-3631

Email:salesdesk@buffalofelt.com

**Jo Ann Fabrics- joann.com** cotton fabrics (woven and knit), some batting, cotton twill tape, stainless steel pins, cotton thread, other misc. supplies

**Walmart-** cotton fabrics, batting, pool noodles, pantyhose, brackets and d- rings for mounting hardware

**Lowes/ Home Depot-** ethafoam pipe cover, brackets and d-rings for mounting hardware, paint for mannequins, washers for magnet mounts, other supplies

**Medical Suppliers-** cotton stockinette

**Carolina Biological Supply-** thin entomology pins (size 0)

2700 York Rd.

Burlington, NC 27215-3398

800-334-5551

**K&J Magnetics, Inc.-** neodymium magnets for mounts

18 Appletree Ln.

Pipersville, PA 18947

1-888-SHOP-KJM (1-888-746-7556)

<http://www.kjmagnetics.com/>

**Hibco Plastics-** ethafoam planks

P.O. Box 157

1820 US Highway 601 South

Yadkinville, NC 27055

**Toll Free:** 1-800-849-8683

**Fax:** (336) 463-5591

[webpage@hibco.com](mailto:webpage@hibco.com)

**A and B Store Fixtures** – mannequins and forms of all types

2300 Capital Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27604

**Phone:** (919) 834-2445

**Fax:** (919) 834-3833

6202 Swing Court, Greensboro, NC 27409

**Phone:** (336) 292-4488

**Fax:** (336) 292-0505