

# Craft Kit #47: Stitched Flag

108 CONTEMPORARY

*Art. Craft. Design.*

Marilyn Artus

## ASSORTED AMERICAN COMMENTARY

*April 7 – May 21, 2023*

*It Saved the Day and Doomed Us All At Once, 2017*



# Welcome to 108 | Contemporary!

We are a non-profit gallery in Tulsa, Oklahoma that specializes in contemporary craft. From April 7 through May 21, 2023, we are hosting the *Assorted American Commentary* exhibition by Marilyn Artus. Let's look closer at who she is and what kind of art she makes before you make your own flag.

On the way we'll ask ourselves some questions. There are no wrong answers! When you view fine art and craft, your experience will be unique and personal. Perhaps the person next to you will have different answers to the same questions. By hearing each other's perspectives, we may find new and exciting ways to interpret each work.



# Who is Marilyn?

Marilyn Artus has been an art curator, commercial artist, burlesque promoter, event planner and a female artist mentor. Her work in this exhibition provides different perspectives on American society. Marilyn is interested in exploring the female experience within her art and using the American flag as a vehicle for that exploration.

- Why do you think Marilyn uses the American flag as a base for her art?
- What do you think of when you look at the flag here?



Artus (left), courtesy of artist

Below: *It Saved the Day and Doomed Us All At Once*, 2017



- Marilyn Artus gained national recognition in 2020 with her work, *Her Flag*. The piece celebrated the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the protected right to vote. The artist drove to 36 states and collaborated with a female artist from each state to create this piece. Each state was one of the original thirty-states states that ratified the 19th Amendment.
- When it was finished, the flag was hung on the building of the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington D.C. to remember the power of collective voices in the past and present.



*Her Flag*, 2020

A lot of Marilyn's mixed media art uses "ephemeral" objects, or things that were only meant to be used for a short amount of time before being thrown away. Objects like tickets, match boxes, and scrap paper are all ephemeral objects.

- Do you think the use of things like match boxes and tickets adds to the work at all? Why or why not?
- Can you think of more examples of things that are "ephemeral"?



*It Saved the Day and Doomed Us All At Once, 2017 (detail)*

# Stitched Flag

Step-by-Step Instructions



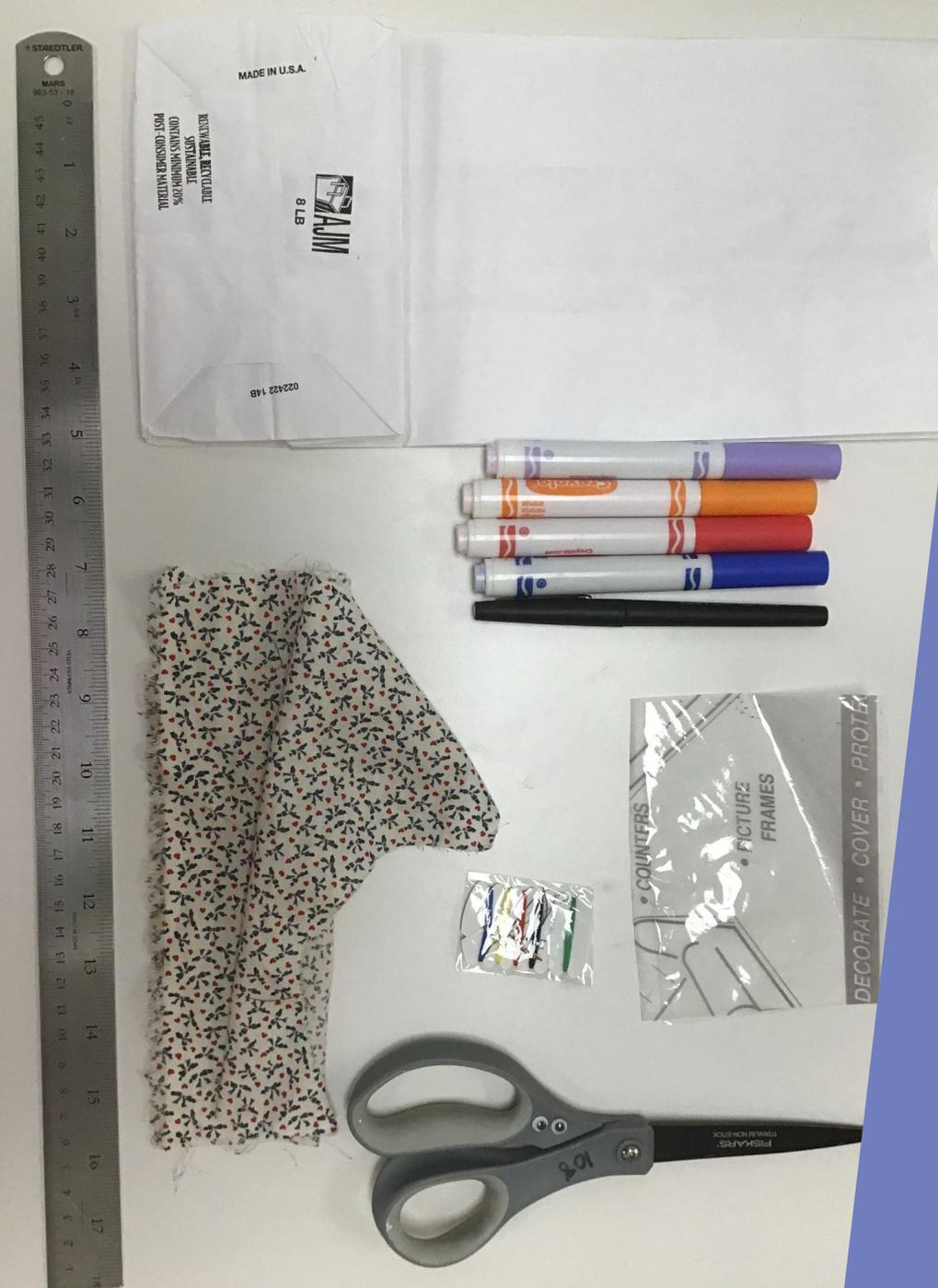
# Materials

## Included in the bag:

- Vinyl
- Thread
- Needle
- Cloth scrap
- The bag itself!

## You'll need:

- Scissors
- Ruler
- Pen or pencil
- Coloring utensils
- \*Optional\* additional **ephemeral** found materials

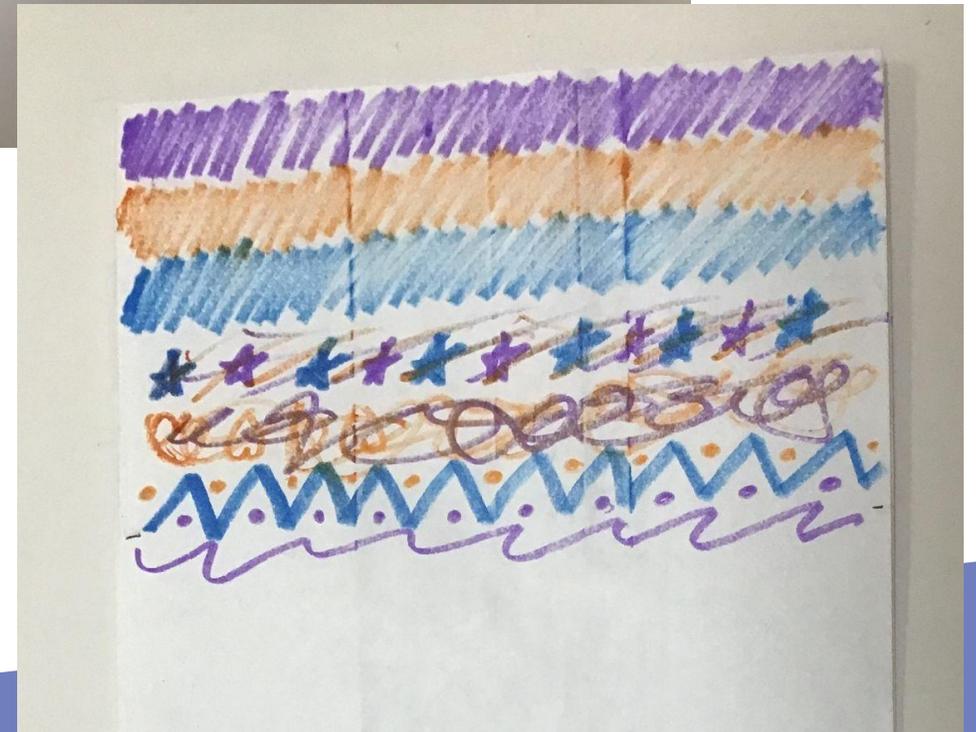
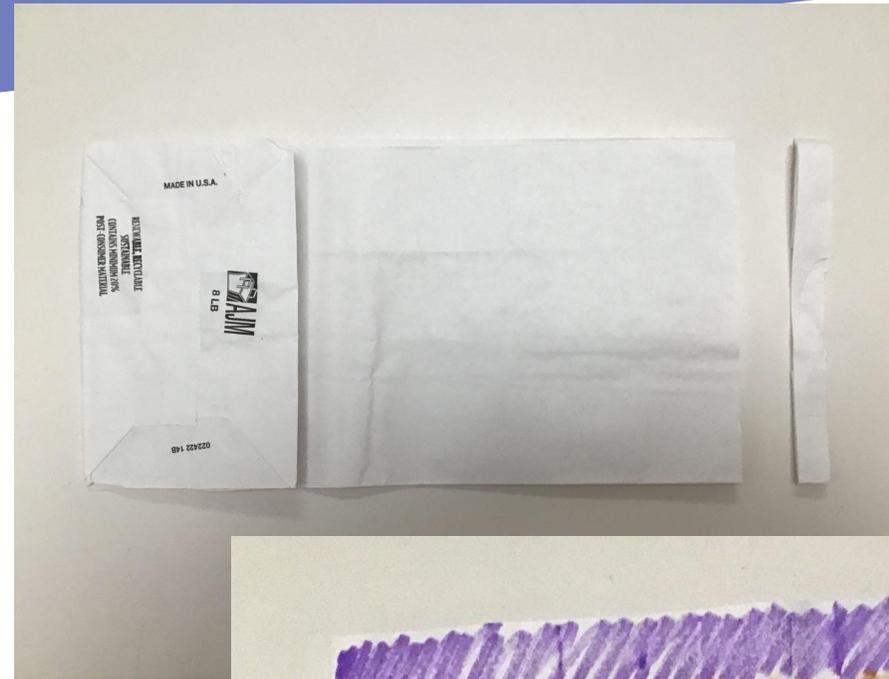


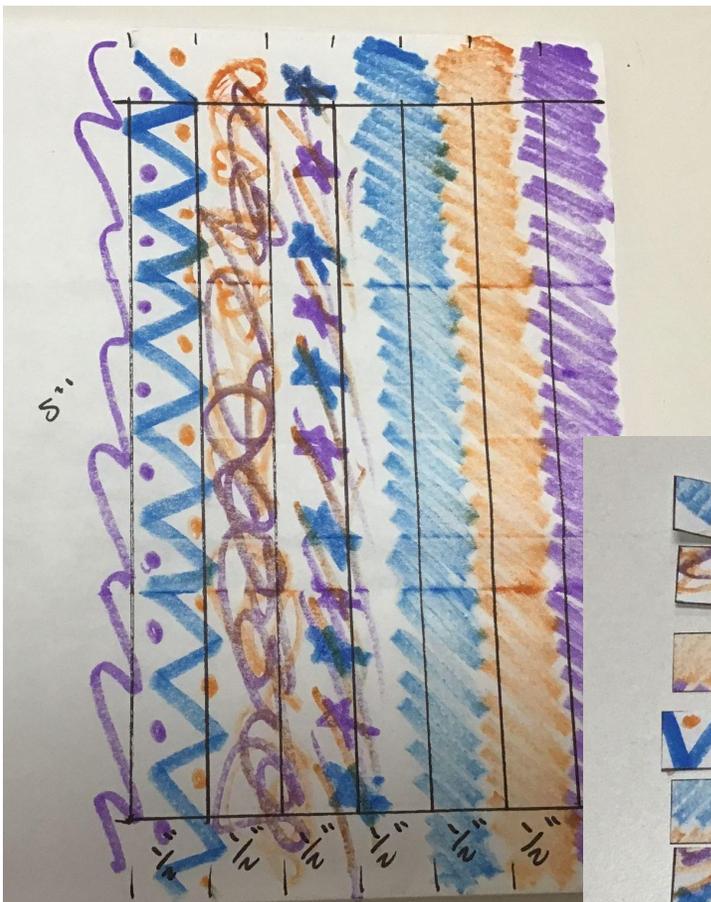
## Step #1:

Take all the materials out of your craft kit bag and lay it flat against a hard surface.

Use your scissors to cut a clean edge across the top of the bag.

Use your coloring utensils to color/doodle on the front of the bag, filling 3 ½ inches from the cut made. Think of patterns and colors that you like and might look interesting on a flag!





## Step #2:

Use a ruler to measure 7 strips of paper across the part of the bag you've decorated, 5" x 1/2" long

Use scissors to cut these strips of paper out. Rearrange and align them into the order you want them to be on your flag.

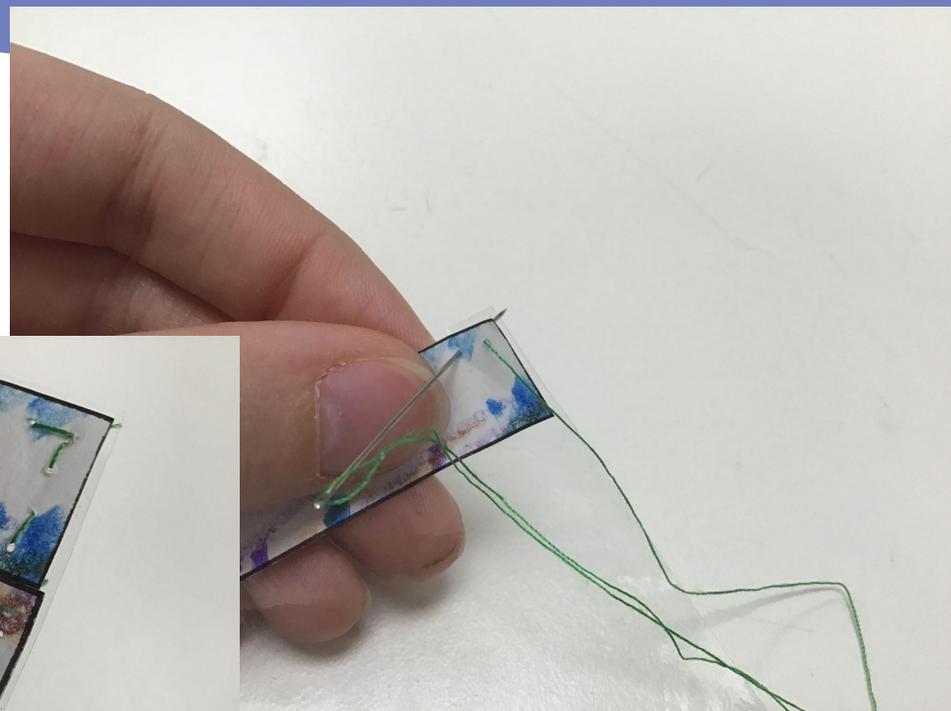
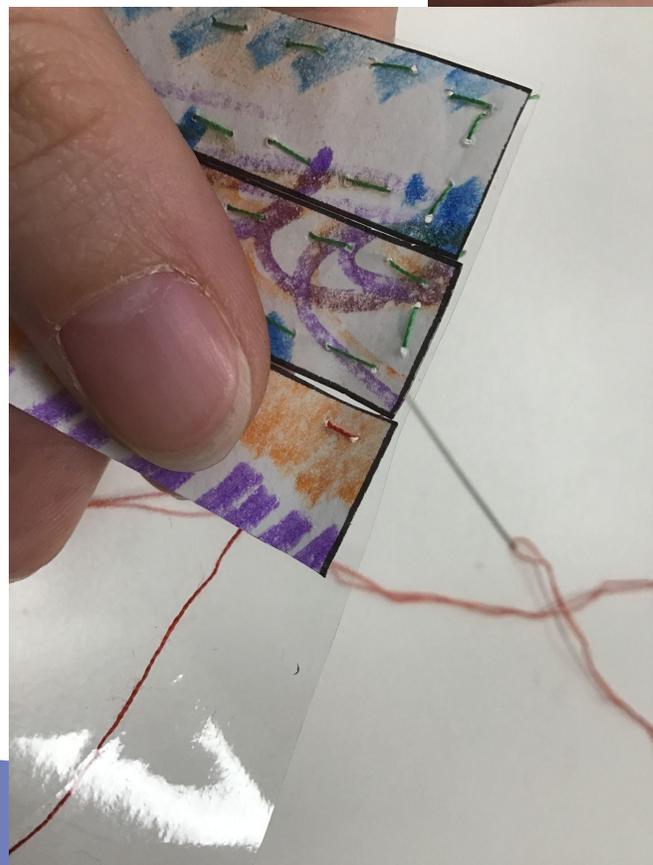
This is also a good opportunity to look for other **ephemeral** materials, like other scrap papers, that you might want to include in your flag!  
Cut any found materials into the same sized strips and try swapping them out.

## Step #3:

Thread your needle and tie a knot at one end.

Start sewing your paper strips on! Use a running stitch around the edge of each paper strip to secure it to the backing, moving the needle in and out through the paper and vinyl with even spacing.

Sew all your strips of paper onto the vinyl. If you have any paper or vinyl overhanging at the end, you can simply trim it away with scissors.





## Step #4:

Take out your scrap of fabric (or another found material) and cut it into a 2" x 1.5" rectangle.

Align the rectangle of fabric with the top left corner of your flag and secure it with another running stitch around the edge of the rectangular piece of cloth.

## Step #5 (Optional):

If you want to add buttons, put them anywhere you like!

Hold the button on the flag and carefully put the needle through one of the middle holes.

From the back, put needle through the diagonal hole. Then do the same to the two other holes to make an "X" shape in the middle of the button.



## Step #6:

Display your stitched flag with pride!

Share your flag with us on social media by tagging @108contemporary and using the hashtag #108craftkits!



# Other Resources

Learn about our other Craft Kits:

- <https://108contemporary.org/craft-kits/>

*(EXHIBITION)* Walkthrough:

- TBA

*(CRAFT KIT)* Step-by-Step Video Instructions:

- TBA