

A Method of Mounting Works on Paper Using Embedded Magnet Strips

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In preparation for the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (MFAH) exhibition *Contingent Beauty: Contemporary Art from Latin America*, paper conservators at the MFAH developed a mounting system with magnets to display Johanna Calle's *Perímetros (Urapán)*, 2012, a 12-part assemblage of typed text on ledger book pages positioned on a wall to depict a tree (fig. 1). The mounting system provided a clean, invisible aesthetic, and was constructed to be reusable for future display without significantly increasing storage space. Spun polyester-web pockets were adhered to the verso of each folio with BEVA 371 film (two or four pockets were adhered to each folio depending on the orientation) (fig. 2). Each set of pockets held a thin PETG (Vivak®) strip with embedded rare earth magnets (1/2 in. diameter x 1/16 in. thickness, N-42 strength) (fig. 3). Metal screws were drilled into the display wall in locations that corresponded to the magnets in the Vivak® strips. A Vivak® template, with holes drilled in the same locations as the magnet-embedded strips, simplified positioning the metal screws during installation. The folios were hung along the top edge, allowing the bottom of the sheet to hang freely (a preference of both the artist and curator). When deinstalled, the Vivak® strips were removed, the pockets were kept on the verso of the work, and all components were stored in a compact storage housing constructed from common archival storage materials (fig. 4).

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Fig. 1 – Johanna Calle, *Perímetros (Urapán)*, 2012, typed text on notarial ledger book paper, 280 x 200 cm. Installation view of *Contingent Beauty: Contemporary Art from Latin America* at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. Photographer Matthew Golden.

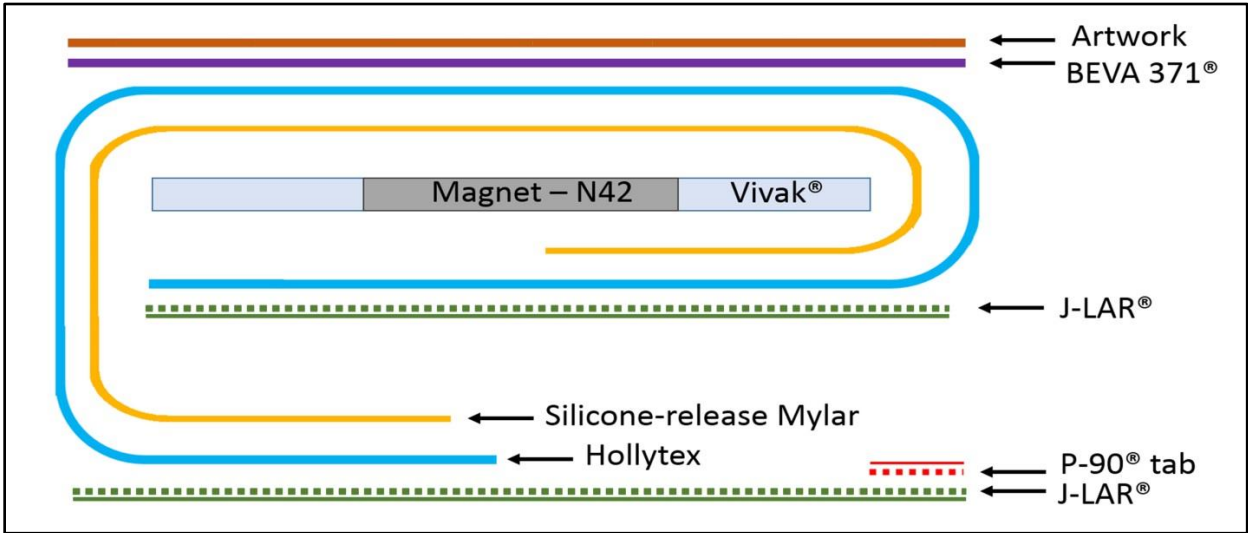


Fig. 2 – Profile diagram of pocket construction

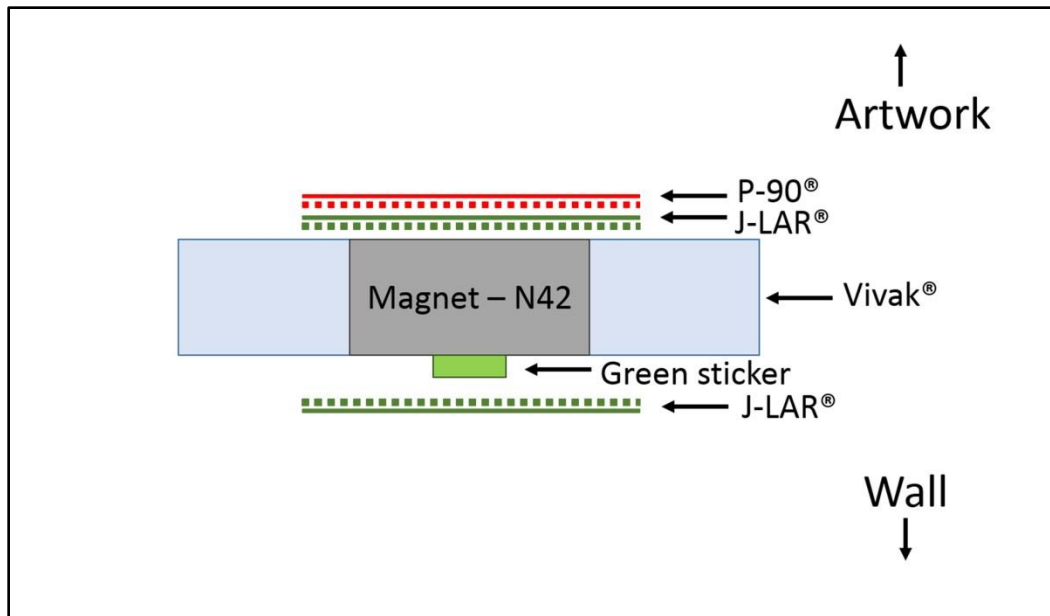


Fig. 3 – Profile diagram of strip construction



Fig 4 – (Top) upper level of storage box showing Vivak® strips with embedded magnets secured with twill tape; (Bottom) lower level of storage box showing removable trays holding folios with Mylar clips and polyethylene strap. Photographer Matthew Golden