



Embroidered Pocketbook

Primary Maker

Mary Polhemus

Medium

Wool, wool tape, linen, canvas, cardboard, and silk

Description

A rectangular pocketbook with a shaped foldover flap, constructed of canvas embroidered with wool yarns in

bold shades of hot pink, cerise, pale pink, dark forest green, olive green, khaki, teal blue, burgundy, dark grape, lilac, lemon yellow, pale yellow, pale orange, and off white, worked entirely in Irish stitch. A single piece of sturdy cardboard serves as a supportive liner and forms the front and back panels as well as the foldover flap. The interior of the pocketbook is lined with glazed hot pink linen. Pink linen wedge-shaped gussets are sewn to either side of the pocketbook. A separate sleeve, consisting of a pink linen envelope with a central cardboard-lined central divider, is sewn into the pocketbook and held in place by cross-stitched seams worked in dark green silk thread along the gusset panels. The pocketbook's edges are bound with hot pink woven wool tape. Additional tape forms a "Y" shaped closure ribbon on the foldover flap, with an additional 12 1/2 inch length of tape wrapping around the body of the pocketbook. The inscription "Mary Polhemus 1774" is worked in cross stitch along the outside edge of the front panel. The initials "A P," worked in black silk cross stitch, can be seen on the inside of the front panel.

Dimensions

3.75 × 7.63 × 0.75 in. (9.5 × 19.4 × 1.9 cm)