

The Shutter Project



by Rosemary Chase

The collection consists of 20 decorative shutters, primarily made of real shutters, except for five sets of faux/decorative shutters. They are not intended for functional use as shutters but rather for interior home decor. The shutters are of various sizes and are created using the technique of decoupage, with paper and acrylic paint. Most of the images used on the shutters were taken by Rosemary using her iPhone 14.

This is a fascinating story about Rosemary Chase and her artistic journey with shutters. It seems like she stumbled upon a creative idea and decided to pursue it further. Rosemary's artistic journey demonstrates her spontaneous and intuitive approach to creating art. By repurposing the shutters and incorporating different elements, she aims to create a cohesive collection for a future solo exhibition.

Here is a summary of each shutter in the collection:

1. ROCKAWAY

Let's break down the key points of her process in this first shutter:

Discovery of the shutters: Rosemary first noticed the shutters on the sidewalk but initially passed them by. However, when she saw them still there the next evening, she felt a connection and decided to take them home.

Step-by-step execution: Rather than planning her projects in advance, Rosemary prefers to work in layers and let the piece "speak to her" as she progresses. She began by choosing aqua green as the color for the frame and metallic gold for the trim around the slats.

Inspiration from a photo: While the frame was complete, the slats remained untouched. Rosemary came across a photo of Rockaway beach on Facebook, posted by her friend Tadashi Mitsui, an actor and artist. She messaged him and obtained permission to use the photo for her shutter piece.

Positive response: After completing the work, Rosemary shared a photo of it on Instagram and Facebook. The response was highly favorable, giving her the belief that she was onto something special.

A series of shutters: Motivated by the positive reception, Rosemary decided to create a collection of shutters. She envisioned repurposing shutters meant to shut out into pieces that allow in. To set a goal for the collection, she researched and found that a solo show typically consists of around 20 pieces.

Producing 20 works: With the aim of having enough pieces for a solo show, Rosemary set out to create a total of 20 works on shutters. Presumably, she would repeat the step-by-step process she followed for the first piece, allowing each one to evolve organically.

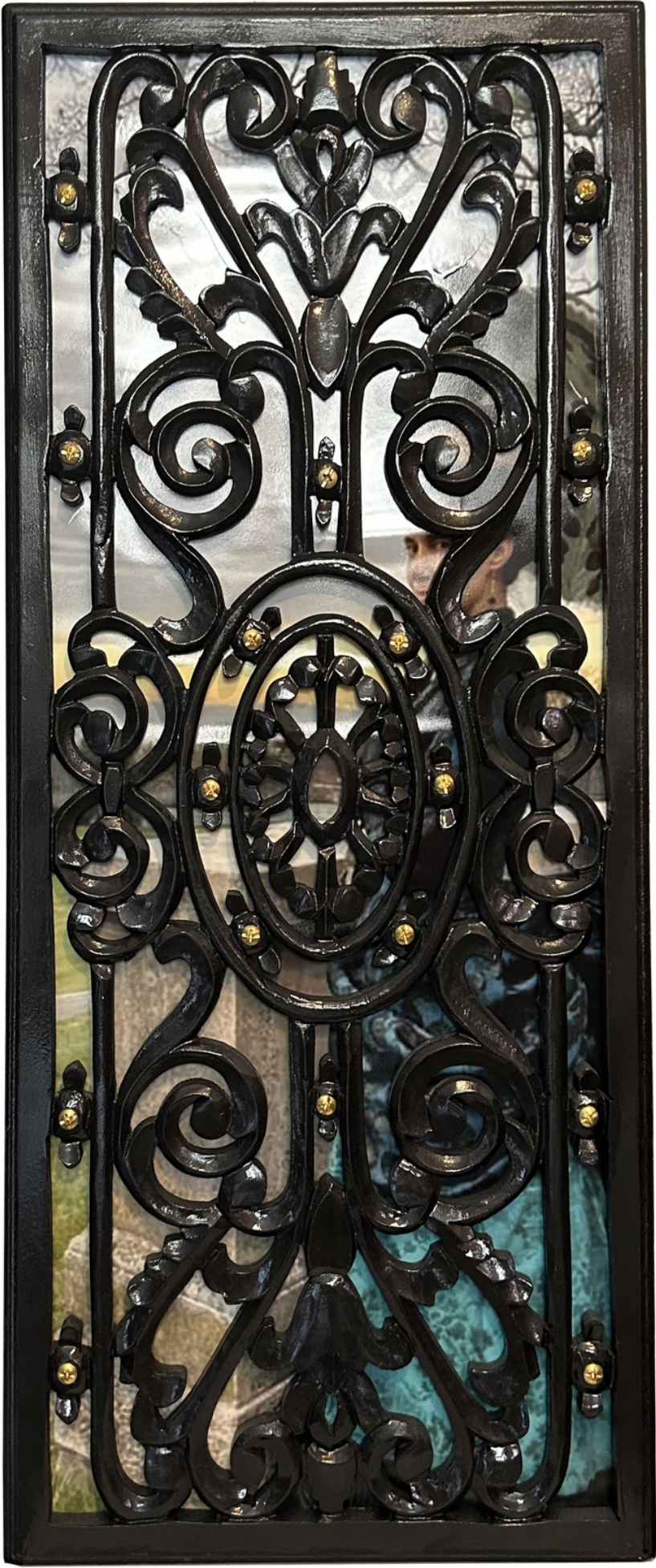


51.25" H x 16" W x 1.25" D (x 2)

2. THE GILDED AGE

Rosemary acquired a decorative shutter that had small holes throughout its design. When she brought it home, she noticed the holes and realized that they resembled the places where gold bolts would be on an ornate iron gate. Inspired by this, she decided to transform the wood shutter into something that resembled wrought iron. She used a hammered black spray paint to achieve the desired effect.

To further enhance the gate-like appearance of the shutter, Rosemary filled the small holes with gold dome-head screws. This added a touch of elegance and highlighted the resemblance to a luxurious iron gate. Rosemary's friend, actor Kristen Schiano, happened to have a photo of herself wearing a period costume from her work on the television series "The Gilded Age." Rosemary asked Kristen if she could use the photo, and Kristen graciously agreed. The photo depicted Kristen looking lovely in her costume, which was fitting for the theme of wealth and beauty that Rosemary associated with the decorative gate.



35.75" H x 15.75" W x .75" D



3. RENZO

Rosemary's appreciation for Dave Mahoney's animal photographs, particularly his dog pictures, led her to remember a screenshot she had saved of Renzo, a dog featured in one of Dave's photos a few years ago. As Rosemary's project involving shutters started to take shape, she found herself immediately reminded of that particular image. Fortunately, both Dave and the owner of Renzo were kind enough to grant her permission to use the photo in her project.

Recognizing the appeal of portraying pets on shutters, Rosemary made sure to include a couple of such portraits in her collection. It seems she believes that capturing the essence of beloved animals would add a charming touch to her project.



28'' H x 14'' W x 1.25'' D

4. GABBY

Rosemary came across an image of an adorable Brussels Griffon on Facebook and saved it to her collection. However, she couldn't remember whose post it was from. Eventually, her Facebook friend Ed Firkser posted a picture of the same dog celebrating its birthday. Rosemary realized that the dog belonged to Ed and reached out to him to ask for permission to use the image. Ed gladly gave her his blessing.

After this experience, Rosemary decided that the images she had taken, including those captured with her iPhone 14, would be used for the rest of her collection. It seems that she had been taking various photos with her iPhone and now intended to incorporate them into her collection as part of her creative work.



28" H x 14" W x 1.25" D

5.RIVER ROAD

Rosemary had a nostalgic connection to a photograph she had taken years ago when her parents lived on River Road in Port Ewen, NY. She had always been drawn to paths in various natural settings, finding them appealing and captivating. This particular photo captured a beautiful and serene path near her parents' home, a memory shared with her mother during a peaceful walk.

Inspired by this photograph and the unique set of shutters she had acquired from a seller in Brooklyn, Rosemary envisioned creating an image that reflected the worn and weathered appearance of the shutters. She wanted to give them a distressed look, as if they had been affected by a fire. To achieve this effect, she decided to cut and decoupage the image onto the slats of the shutters.

After carefully arranging and attaching the image onto the slats, Rosemary proceeded to enhance the distressed appearance by selectively burning the edges of certain slats using a hot iron tool. This step added a sense of ruggedness and age to the shutters, further accentuating the desired effect she aimed to achieve.

By combining her cherished photograph and the shabby shutters, Rosemary was able to create a unique and personalized piece that reflected both her love for natural paths and her appreciation for rustic aesthetics.



57.25" H x 14" W x 1.25" D (x 2)

6.DREAM VIEW DAY & NIGHT

Rosemary's acquisition from Facebook Marketplace consists of four interior shutters, which she intends to use creatively to showcase different ways they can be utilized within her "room with a view" theme. One of the shutters, which has a displayable front and back, is suitable for being used as a mini room divider. To achieve this, Rosemary has decided to incorporate a wrought iron store sign bracket.

Her vision for this particular shutter is to separate an office or living room area from a bedroom in a studio apartment. By doing so, she aims to create distinct spaces while maintaining a sense of openness and visual appeal. The gingham curtain featured on the shutter is a photograph that Rosemary captured of a curtain she originally made for a staging client. Currently, she uses the same curtain in the window of her own studio apartment. However, due to the lack of an exciting view, Rosemary decided to enhance it by adding a rainbow and flowers. She also included a moon on the night side of the shutter.

Rosemary's intention behind these embellishments is to create a picturesque view that she would have loved to have in her apartment. She believes that rainbows are beautiful and capable of bringing joy to people's faces. Having the opportunity to gaze out the window and see a rainbow or even the moon is a delightful experience. Rosemary acknowledges that not everyone has the privilege of enjoying such a view, particularly in a bustling city like New York City.



27.25" H x 15.75" W x .75" D

7. POOLSIDE

Rosemary's artistic theme of transforming inexpensive or discarded items into something new and valuable is evident in her latest project involving faux shutters. In this particular endeavor, Rosemary took ordinary faux shutters and infused them with new life through her artistic vision. She skillfully painted the hardware and molding in a way that gave the shutters the appearance of a real window.

Driven by her love for swimming pools and the aspiration of having one, Rosemary decided to incorporate this passion into her artwork. She saw the shutters as an opportunity to create a unique and imaginative window view—one that would fulfill her desire to gaze out onto a swimming pool. With her artistic prowess, Rosemary transformed the shutters into a stunning depiction of a swimming pool scene.

Through this creative process, Rosemary not only expressed her love for swimming pools but also breathed new life into the once ordinary shutters, turning them into a captivating work of art.

Rosemary's ability to find beauty and potential in what others might consider cheap or trash is a testament to her artistic vision and resourcefulness. Her art serves as a reminder that artistry can transform even the most humble objects into something extraordinary, inviting viewers to see the world in new and unexpected ways.



17.50'' H x 10.75'' W x 0.375'' D (x 2)



8. TOWN & COUNTRY

Rosemary's photographs represent her connection to two different places that hold significance in her life: her small Hudson Valley town and Manhattan, where she has resided for over 30 years.

The first photograph Rosemary took depicts the little red bridge that leads into the Village of Saugerties, her hometown in the Hudson Valley. This image represents her upbringing and the familiarity and memories associated with her small-town roots. The bridge acts as a symbol of connection between her past and her present.

The second photograph captures the Manhattan Bridge, taken during her late-night work on the film "Your Place or Mine" in Dumbo, Brooklyn. This image represents her life in Manhattan, where she has lived for several decades. The Manhattan Bridge is an iconic landmark connecting the boroughs of Manhattan and Brooklyn, symbolizing the bustling urban environment and the vibrant energy of the city.

Rosemary's desire to live in both places is reflected in her photography. Despite being a long-time Manhattan resident, she still feels a strong attachment to her hometown in the Hudson Valley. Her photographs serve as a visual representation of her longing to bridge the gap between these two distinct environments, representing her desire to merge the tranquility and nostalgia of her small-town upbringing with the dynamic and fast-paced lifestyle of the city.



15.75" H x 27.25" W x .75" D

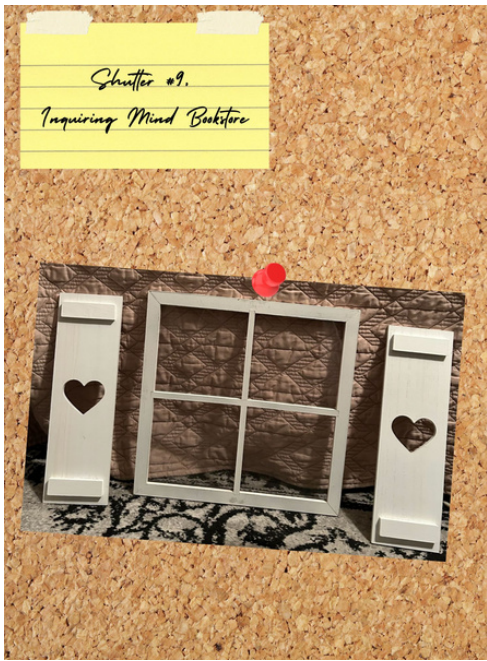


9. INQUIRING MIND BOOKSTORE

Intrigued by the young girl's presence and captivated by her vibrant aura, Rosemary couldn't resist the urge to capture the moment. She quickly reached for her smartphone and discreetly snapped a photo of the girl through the window of the Inquiring Mind Bookstore & Cafe. The image she captured showcased the essence of the young girl's personality, even without revealing her face.

The small faux shutters with cut-out hearts that Rosemary purchased were an ideal decorative addition. The shutters seemed to perfectly encapsulate the spirit and charm she had observed in that fleeting moment. Rosemary knew that incorporating the photo into the arrangement would create a beautiful and meaningful composition.

The image of the young girl, taken on a November day in Saugerties, engrossed in her reading, her lively energy shining through the window, filled Rosemary's heart with joy and curiosity. The memory of the young girl and the serendipitous encounter inspired Rosemary's creative process. The artwork she created serves as a testament to the beauty of chance encounters and the ability of art to capture and preserve fleeting moments of inspiration.



16" H x 24.50" W x .50" D



10.TIMES SQUARE

Rosemary's experience of creating "Times Square" was different from her initial intention. Despite encountering challenges, she persisted and found that unexpected and pleasant things can happen. She had selected an image that didn't work out as she had planned, but instead of giving up, she adapted her approach.

Living in the Times Square area for several years, Rosemary discovered that the neighborhood's best aspect was the presence of beautiful horses. The New York Police Department (NYPD) takes good care of these horses, and they are friendly enough to allow people to pet and photograph them. This interaction with the horses became a highlight for Rosemary in the bustling neighborhood.

As Rosemary continued working on her project, the shutter itself evolved into a piece of sculpture, becoming an artistic element in its own right. She then had an idea to enhance the viewer's experience. If someone moved closer and peeked through the slats, they would be greeted with a surprise image that wasn't readily visible from a distance.

Drawing a parallel to Times Square in New York, Rosemary reflects on how it is a place where people from all over the world come to explore and discover. Similar to her artwork, the more one looks closely, the more they will notice and appreciate. Times Square offers a multitude of sights, sounds, and experiences that unfold as one takes the time to observe and explore the vibrant surroundings.



27.25" H x 15.75" W x .75" D



11.OVERLOOK SPRING & WINTER

Rosemary, inspired by her childhood memories and her love for seasonal decorations, created two different views on a single shutter to showcase the changing seasons. She recalls her mother redecorating their house to reflect the beauty of each season. One Christmas, a few years ago, Rosemary visited her sister and brother-in-law's home in Saugerties, NY and captured a photograph of the winter side of the shutter from an upstairs window. The spring version of the shutter was photographed earlier this year in 2023.

Rosemary is particularly captivated by the majestic Catskill's Overlook Mountain Range, which adds a splendid touch to her sister and brother-in-law's property. She appreciates the opportunity to share this breathtaking view with others, allowing them to experience the beauty of the changing seasons through her shutter creations.



27.25" H x 15.75" W x .75" D



12.CENTERVILLE

This is a fascinating pair of faux shutters with a unique story behind them. It's interesting how the images were taken from two different places but were designed to fit together as one wide view. The left image captures a view from a kitchen window in Centerville, a hamlet north of Saugerties, NY, belonging to Rosemary's sister and brother-in-law. On the other hand, the right image was taken on the set of the television show FBI Most Wanted, where Rosemary, playing an NYPD officer, managed to capture the scene between takes while shooting on location in Brooklyn, NY.

To create a cohesive visual composition, Rosemary extended the large tree branch from the right image to the left shutter. Additionally, she applied a painting effect to both images to give them a distinct artistic touch. As part of her artistic process, Rosemary adds visual elements like the cardinal to some of the shutters in the collection. In this particular case, the cardinal was inserted into the image before applying the digital effect. This way, the shutters become not only a creative display but also a reflection of Rosemary's artistic vision and her experiences in both Centerville and the world of television production.



16" H x 15.75" W x .75" D (x2)



13.CENTRAL PARK CHERRY BLOSSOMS

Rosemary purchased faux shutters at a Dollar General store in Saugerties, NY, and painted them to resemble oak wood. She then used a photo she had taken of cherry blossom trees to create a captivating view. The intention was to create a scene that one might not typically have, and the idea of looking out onto beautiful trees in Central Park, NY, appealed to her.

To add depth and enhance the overall image, Rosemary used a screen material as an additional layer on the shutters. This material not only mimicked the appearance of real windows but also darkened the image slightly, adding a touch of ambiance. The resulting arch-shaped lattice "windows" gave the impression of something one might expect to see in the hallway of a chapel or seminary.



23.50'' H x 9.25'' W x .75'' D (x2)

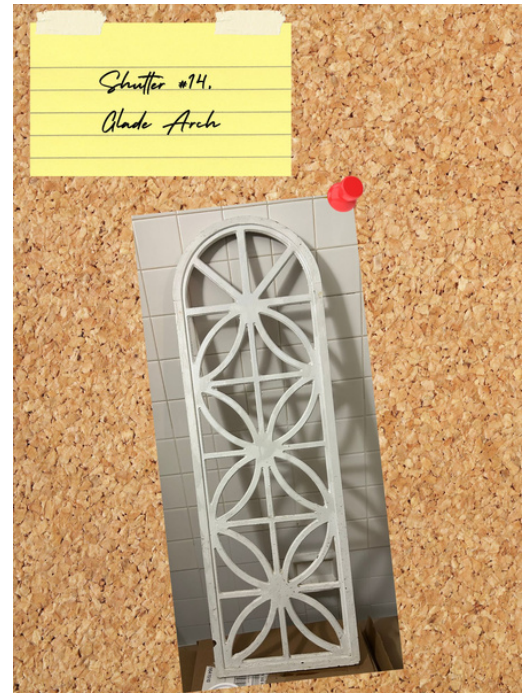


14. GLADE ARCH

Rosemary's creative vision for the shutter was inspired by the resemblance she saw between its shape and a garden trellis. With that in mind, she decided to transform the wooden surface to resemble rusted metal through painting techniques. By giving the shutter a distressed metal appearance, Rosemary aimed to add an interesting and weathered aesthetic to her surroundings.

To further enhance the overall composition, Rosemary made additional adjustments to a photograph she had taken of Glade Arch, a structure located in Central Park. She modified the image to simulate an overcast day, which complemented the distressed metal look she wanted to achieve on the shutter. By aligning the visual elements of the altered photo with the painted shutter, Rosemary was able to create a cohesive and harmonious display.

Through her artistic choices, Rosemary aimed to evoke a sense of nostalgia, blending the organic beauty of a garden trellis with the aged and weathered charm of rusted metal. The coordination between the shutter's appearance and the modified photograph of Glade Arch allowed her to create a unified and visually appealing arrangement that captured her artistic vision.



43.125'' H x 14'' W x 1'' D

15. NYC FLOWER SHOP

Rosemary, an enthusiastic experimenter, decided to explore the creative possibilities of the sister to the Glade Arch shutter by giving it an oxidized copper look. She was excited to add a touch of uniqueness to the frame and wanted to complement it with vibrant colors. To achieve this, she chose a photo she had taken previously of a flower stand located in Manhattan's Flower District.

Rosemary believed that the vivid colors in the image would serve as an excellent contrast to the oxidized copper look of the shutter frame. By combining the industrial yet aged appearance of the frame with the lively and eye-catching colors of the flowers, she aimed to create a visually striking composition.

Overall, Rosemary's intention was to bring together the rustic charm of the oxidized copper shutter frame with the vibrant energy of the Flower District through her chosen photo, allowing the two elements to harmoniously coexist in a visually appealing composition.



43.125" H x 14" W x 1" D

16. SUTTON PLACE NEIGHBORS

By associating this shutter to the likes of a townhouse window, Rosemary leaned toward expressing who the neighbors could be if she were living in her favorite neighborhood, Sutton Place.

Additionally, Rosemary included two lovely dogs on the sidewalk in the image she had taken while visiting the area to further enhance the neighborhood feel. This detail adds a touch of charm and warmth, implying a friendly and pet-friendly community, as well as a bit of humor, purposely showing no humans, rather suggesting the dogs are actually the neighbors.



51.125" H x 18" W x 1.125" D

17. SUTTON PLACE

Sutton Place is a prestigious neighborhood located on the east side of Manhattan, New York City. It is known for its elegance, tranquility, and beautiful views of the East River.

Rosemary combined two photographs, one that she had taken in Sutton Place, and the other taken in Central Park, to create a composition with a theme centered around the wealth of "your next door neighbor."

Rosemary employs digital techniques to seamlessly blend the two images. Additionally, she strategically places the horse in the foreground, which serves as a hint at the affluence that may exist just next door.



51.125" H x 18" W x 1.125" D



18. TOM (PEEPING)

Rosemary and Tom Stratford became friends several years ago while working together on the CBS TV show Elementary. Tom is a talented actor known for his appearances in various TV shows and films. Most recently, he has added author to his repertoire. One notable project that Tom was involved in was the TV series The Knick. Rosemary acquired a picture of Tom on the set of the show, which captures him in character and immersed in the period setting. She playfully added to this shutter about Tom peeping, by adding a gate, for a fictional elemental twist to the image.



31" H x 14" W x 1" D



19.CENTRAL PARK IN MINIATURE

Rosemary's idea to use tiny vintage interior shutters and transform her photo of New York's Central Park is creative and unique. A digital vintage effect was applied to the image that mimics the look of old-fashioned wallpaper.



16" H x 6" W x .75" D (x 2)



20. BOTANICAL GARDENS

Rosemary's #20 collection piece is a large shutter-like room divider that she found on Facebook Marketplace. The upper half of the divider reminded her of the three-part metal windows she had seen in apartments from her old neighborhood in Manhattan. To give it a special touch, she painted the frame to resemble oxidized brass, adding an antique look to the piece.

For the view on the divider, Rosemary wanted something grand and captivating. Being a lover of flowers and gardens, she decided to visit the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx for inspiration. During her visit, she took several photos with her iPhone 14, aiming to capture the perfect view for her collection piece.

After reviewing the photos, Rosemary selected two images that stood out to her. One photo was taken from a closer perspective, allowing for more detail and depth in the view. The other photo was taken from a farther distance, providing a wider perspective of the scene. She decided to incorporate both images into her room divider, ensuring that both sides would display a different view.

To enhance the aesthetics of the divider, Rosemary covered the bottom half with materials that complemented the images. On the near-view side, she used burlap to add a natural and textured look. On the far-view side, she opted for a metallic woven fabric, adding a touch of elegance and modernity.

To complete the project, Rosemary added trim around each section of the room divider, giving it a polished and finished appearance. Overall, creating her #20 collection piece took her a few weeks of dedication and creative effort.



69 1/4" H x 17 1/4" W (x 3) x 3/4" D

