

About the paper parfleche.

The traveling trunk known as *parfleche*, plays an important role in many Plains tribes. Its purpose was vital during time of travel, it was needed to carry belongings. The embellishment of the parfleche was strongly painted by women with earth pigments and abstract symbolism. The designs could tell stories, dreams, experiences and where made for specific people. Though representative, the utilitarian trunk may also have been a spiritual form of map and record keeping of land through powerful line formations. Originally made from rawhide (animal skin beaten flat and dried until hard), parfleche is a significant thread of Lakota lineage, intersecting my ancestors' ingenuity with contemporary Lakota expression.

Mikayla Patton, 2021