

Page 3 of 5

Legal First Name:

Sara

Legal Last Name:

Johnson

Artist Name (if different):

No answer given

Preferred Language:

english

Art Vendor Information

Contact Information

Entity	Publications
1. A	10
2. B	20
3. C	1
4. D	1
5. E	10
6. F	10
7. G	10
8. H	10
9. I	10
10. J	10
11. K	1
12. L	10
13. M	10
14. N	10
15. O	10

Apartment/Unit/Suite #: *No answer given*

No answer given

A 6x2 grid of horizontal bars. The bars in the first column are shorter than those in the second column. The bars in the second column are of increasing length from top to bottom.

The Art Vendor Advisory Committee will only screen two crafts per meeting. If you want to screen for additional crafts, you will need to complete a new application after you have been approved for two. How many crafts are you applying for? Example: Beaded jewelry and watercolor paintings on canvas are two crafts.

I am applying for only one craft



ceramic pendants and ceramic bowls are one craft (Ceramic items)

Please list your one craft item to be screened:

up cycled bags, wallets, coin purses

Are you a current art vendor adding an additional craft?

No

A family unit is two (2) or more persons jointly engaged in the creation of an art or craft item.

Is this an application for a Family Unit?

No

Artist Biography (Please provide a short biography about yourself and your craft):

Artist Bio – Sara Johnson I was born and raised in the Bay Area and have lived here my entire life, with San Francisco always serving as my city—a place where art, culture, and creative expression first opened my life and soul. That early immersion in the arts shaped both my career and my creative voice. I completed graduate work in education at San Francisco State University, grounding my artistic path in teaching, storytelling, and community engagement. I am a retired public educator of thirty years who spent my career integrating creativity into the classroom, particularly through art instruction with upper-grade students. In addition to teaching, I founded a youth theatre company and, for fifteen years, wrote and directed original plays, guiding young performers in using movement, language, and imagination as tools for self-expression. These experiences deeply inform my current work, which blends narrative, playfulness, and purpose. Today, I am focused fully on my own artistic practice. My work is inspired by travel and global connection, especially Southeast Asia. In Cambodia, I was profoundly influenced by artisans who transform discarded and recycled materials into meaningful works of art. Their ingenuity, resilience, and craftsmanship sparked MEOWI, a collection of upcycled bags that combine sustainable materials with bold design and storytelling. Each MEOWI piece is created as functional art—carrying the spirit of reinvention, cultural exchange, and human connection. Through this work, I celebrate creativity as a living practice, one that honors both place and people while giving materials a second life.

1. Describe the items you plan to sell and how each type of item is made. Please be as detailed as possible. Example: I plan to sell digital photographic prints of artwork that I designed in Illustrator and printed on cardstock using a home printer.

I create each piece from an original sketch or a reusable cardboard template developed from my designs. Reclaimed materials are thoroughly washed, dried, pinned to the template, and hand-cut. Pieces are formed and sewn together using a sewing machine, with close attention to structure and durability. Each finished item is reviewed for craftsmanship and presentation. I primarily use reclaimed cement bags and fish feed bags, making every piece unique! I create a diverse range of functional bags designed for everyday use. My work includes larger bags intended for carrying groceries, as well as smaller designs such as wallets, coin purses, compact bags, and toiletry kits. Each design balances practicality with durability, while allowing the character of the reclaimed materials to remain visible. In addition to these everyday items, I have developed specialized designs based on specific needs. One such piece is a custom bag created for a guitar player, designed to hold all essential guitar accessories in one organized place. This design, which I call the "Gig Bag," reflects my interest in problem-solving through design and creating functional objects tailored to real-life use. My collection continues to evolve as I explore new forms and applications. While many designs are repeated using templates, I regularly develop new bag styles in response to inspiration, materials, and user needs. As a result, my work remains both consistent and continually expanding.



2. Where did you learn your craft? Did you take a class or learn on your own?

I learned this craft through sustained, hands-on practice rather than formal instruction. While working alongside Pao and several women at the Cambodian Women's Crisis Center, I practiced bag-making daily for weeks, using existing templates as a foundation. What initially appeared simple quickly revealed itself to be complex, and many early attempts resulted in awkward or nonfunctional forms. Through an iterative process of making, evaluating, and refining—learning from mistakes and adjusting patterns, construction methods, and proportions—the work gradually became more functional and resolved. This trial-and-error approach was essential to developing both technical skill and design confidence. The experience shaped how I continue to approach my work today, grounding my practice in patience, repetition, and thoughtful problem-solving.

Please provide up to two (2) images of your craft in process. The images should include you demonstrating your process. See an example here

IMG_1830.jpeg

Please provide up to two (2) images of your finalized craft. The images should show examples of what you plan to sell. See an example here

passport.jpg

Please provide an image of your workspace that includes the equipment and materials used in your craft. See an example here.

work.jpg

Additionally, artists may upload a video (up to five minutes) of their process. See an example video here.

No answer given

4. Is your craft considered an American Indian or Alaskan Native style, traditional or contemporary, arts and crafts? Do you identify as a member of the community that practices this cultural tradition? Are you compliant with The Indian Arts and Crafts Act of 1990?

no it is not part of this

5. What makes your work different from other artists and craftspeople making similar items?

Each design originates from my own lived experience, ideas around me and personal vision. My sense of color, balance, and form is shaped by both my travels—particularly in Southeast Asia—and by my life at home. I design in response to real functional needs, often inspired by the everyday use of myself, my family, and my friends. All of my bag designs are created by me. Many are original concepts developed for a specific purpose or individual, and others evolve through continued use and refinement. While materials and techniques may be consistent, the designs themselves are personal, intentional, and driven by function as much as aesthetics. Additionally, my branding makes my products different. My branding is defined by a soft, minimal color palette that I developed to feel both pleasing and quietly intriguing. I wanted the visual identity of my work to feel approachable while still reflecting thoughtful design. Central to the brand is a simple, playful cat face, which emerged from my love and the particular cat face I had drawn. The challenge was finding a way to integrate cat face and the artful products. From that came the concept MEOW!...bags with nine li



fairs and markets, people often see my sign say "MEOW, MEOW!" out of curiosity, or just for fun. To which I respond, "MEOW, MEOW!" As simple as this exchange sounds, it forms a connection between me, my art and visitors. Space again is created for connection and the meaning behind the craft.

(Optional) Please provide an artist CV or Résumé:

No answer given

(Optional) Please provide any Letters of Recommendation from other markets or studios you may have:

No answer given

6. What artist or business name are you operating under?

MEOW!...Bags With Nine Lives

7. Do you have a website, Etsy, Instagram or any other publicly accessible online store or social media account?

Yes

If Yes, please provide links to your public sites: <https://meowinapa.etsy.com>

(Optional) Please upload your logo or signage. **2.jpeg**

(Optional) Please upload your image of display **IMG_5808.jpeg**

8. Does your artwork comply with all federal, state, and local laws and ordinance, including, if necessary, lawful authority to use logos or other images protected by Copyright or Trademark laws?

Yes

9. Are you using any sports or company logos such as SF Giants or other recognizable branding that is not your own?

No

10. How are you ensuring customers can tell a difference between your work and commercial or mass-produced items?

My designs, my materials, my brand and told experiences behind the work.

11. What steps have you taken to ensure that you are not violating any copyright or other laws?

I have searched the Washington copy write website. I use things from my head and the person I learned from in Cambodia shared the making and design process herself.

12. REQUIRED Please upload recent receipts for any tools and materials. Receipts must be for the same tools and materials used to create the items in the work samples you provide. Receipts must show that the materials were shipped to you/your

receipt.png



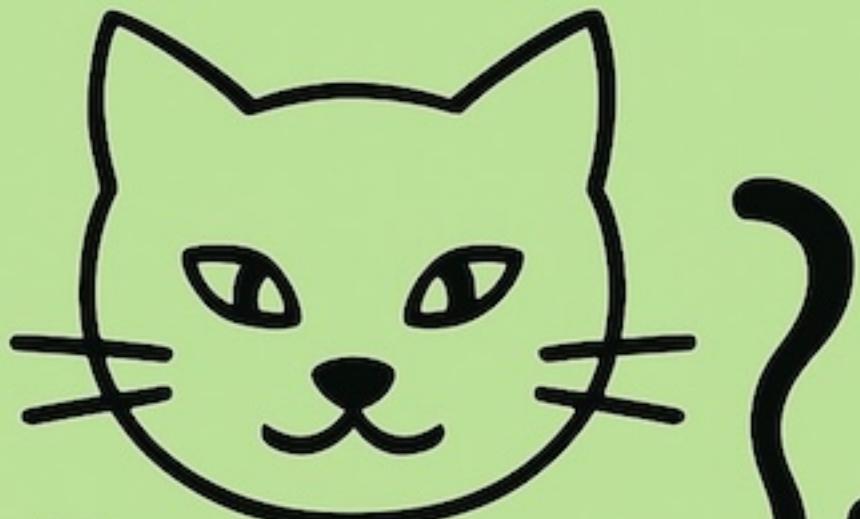
address. See an example here. Optionally, you can upload images of your workspace. The image of your workspace must include the equipment and materials used in your craft. Receipts and/or images of your materials used in the production of your craft are required for approval. You will not receive a license until you have provided this information.

13. If you are unable to provide a copy of your receipt, please provide the reason you are unable to do so

I provided the only item I needed to purchase was a zipper. The other materials are free and found from trash, around my house or in my garage. The cement bags and fish feed bags I already had from Cambodia and do not have a receipt. I already own

14. Describe the safety procedures you use in your craft. What, if any, safety equipment do you use? How do you store and handle any toxic or hazardous material?

I am careful when using pins and keep my fingers away from the sewing needle. When rethreading the needle I unplug the machine entirely.



Meowi

BAGS WITH 9 LIVES



6M
SHAKE WELL / BIEN AGITER

NYX PROFESSIONAL MAKEUP
LONDON NO DAY - www.nyxcosmetics.com



AT

Always be
bold enough

accessories

antico
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IM-BG

22

ON - IN JAPAN PRODUCED

Upcycled Bags

Sourced in Cambodia

Fair Trade

Eco-Friendly, Hand Sewn

Recycled cement bags
fish food bags



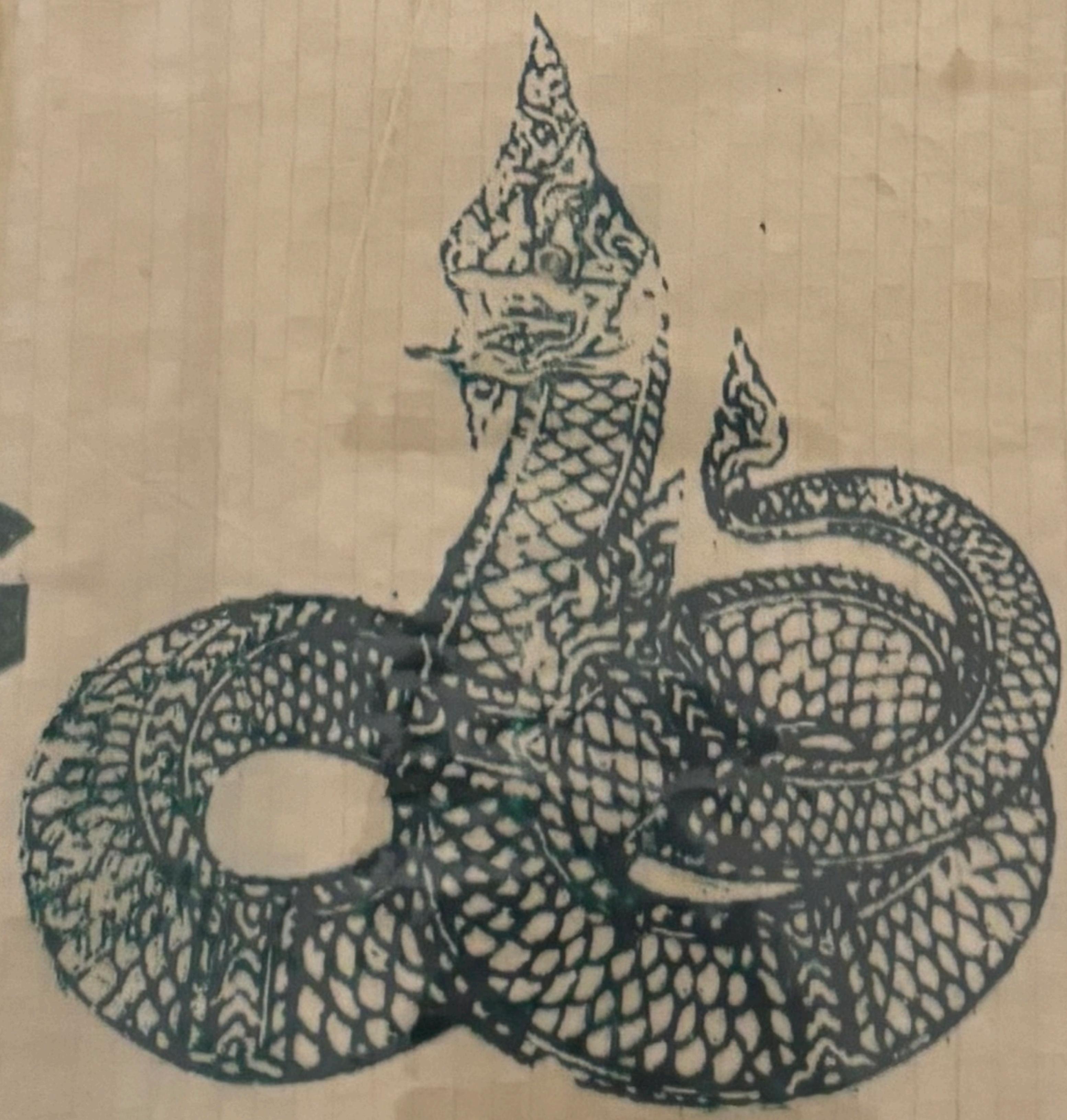
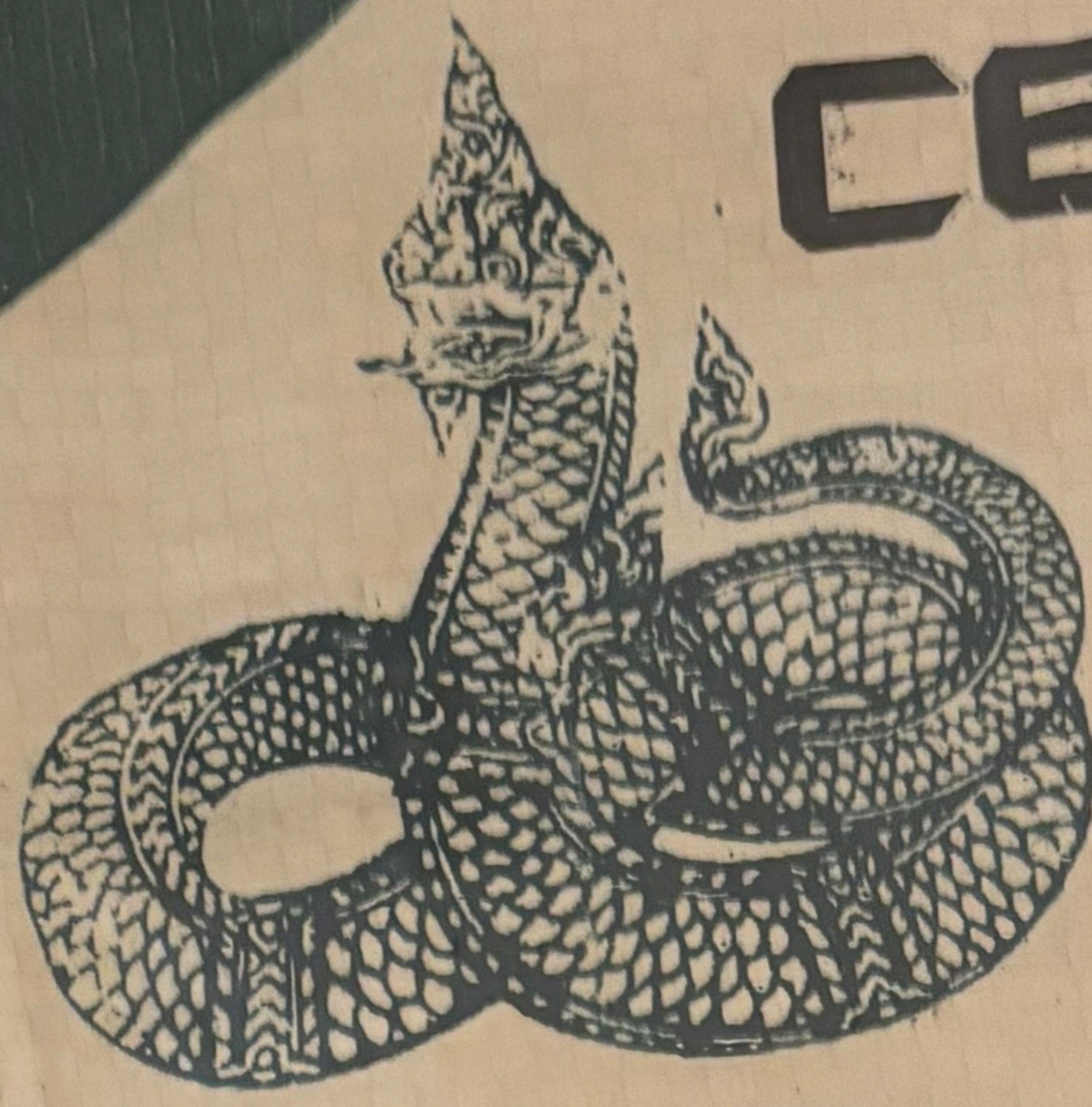
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Items:	\$29.99
Shipping & handling:	\$0.00
Estimated tax to be collected:	\$2.62
Order total:	\$32.61

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