

Part-Time Martyr
2007
Terracotta, Mixed Media



BENJAMIN SCHULMAN

As a past recipient of a technical assistant scholarship for three consecutive years and as a summer assistant for one session, I have had the unforgettable opportunity to experience this celebrated institution. During those summers, as I assisted the ceramic instructors whom I both idolized and considered mentors, I would often dream of the day when I would return to be an instructor. I remember how Stuart Kestenbaum would frequently talk about Haystack's proud tradition of inviting faculty who were once Technical Assistants or students to return years later to be instructors. It has been over ten years since my first summer on Deer Isle, and I am both honored and proud to find myself in the position of returning as a faculty member.

In many ways it seems like just yesterday; in other ways it seems so long ago. I had just finished undergraduate school before my first workshop. I vividly remember anxiously anticipating traveling to Maine before those workshops, yet each session seemed to go by too quickly. Haystack exposed me to a community of artists who worked together for a short period of time and who were eager to take advantage of every second of the day. Although students were there to study with a particular instructor to learn techniques associated with a specific craft, I was always impressed with both the teachers' and students' willingness to learn from one another and to share their experiences. In retrospect, this is what I take from my time at Haystack.