



Haystack Mountain School of Crafts

The idea for the *Board/Board* show was suggested by Haystack trustees Stephen Yusko and John Garrett at our annual meeting in the fall of 2009. As part of our planned improvements to Haystack's award-winning facility, we were scheduled to replace the lower half of the main stairs over the winter. Their idea—that trustees use the discarded spruce 2" x 6" boards and other framing materials to make art-- was greeted with great enthusiasm by everyone at the meeting. Approximately half of the school's trustees are artists, many of whom have taught at Haystack, and they were excited by the idea of working within these limitations.

During the late winter, our contractor, Walter Kumiega and crew dismantled the stairs, setting aside many of the stringers, treads, bolts, and flashing. Susan Webster, our community programs coordinator, who oversaw and installed the exhibit, made packages of the varied materials and distributed them to the trustees in April.

You see the transformation of the stairs here-- many solutions to using the same material.

The Haystack campus is itself one of the country's most noted works of art—one of only forty buildings in the United States to have received the Twenty-Five Year Award from the American Institute of Architects as a building that has had a significant impact on design (others include Rockefeller Center, the Guggenheim Museum and the Vietnam Memorial). As a school, we know that we are stewards of a remarkable landmark—we are reinvesting between \$50,000 and \$100,000 annually in the facility. Equally important is that we reinvest in the creative spirit each year as well. In this case, our trustees have done both—with new stairs and new art.

Stuart Kestenbaum
Director