



HAYSTACK

HAYSTACK MOUNTAIN SCHOOL OF CRAFTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Issued: 10/23/2014

CONTACT: Ginger Aldrich, 348-2306

development@haystack-mtn.org

Haystack Director Stuart Kestenbaum to Step Down in 2015

DEER ISLE: Stuart Kestenbaum, director of the Haystack Mountain School of Crafts for the past 26 years, announced this week to the school's board of trustees and staff that he will be leaving his position next year.

During Kestenbaum's tenure the school has seen a period of unprecedented growth, establishing many programs, including intensive workshops for high school students, conferences, retreats, an annual writing series, and, most recently, a residency program and a digital fabrication studio (in partnership with the Center for Bits and Atoms at MIT). The school's endowment for scholarships and programs has also grown, from under \$350,000 in 1989 to approximately \$8 million today.

His achievements have been recognized by the College of Fellows of the American Craft Council, which elected him an honorary member, and the James Renwick Alliance, which awarded him the Distinguished Educator's Award, the only non-academic educator to have received this recognition. After leaving Haystack, Kestenbaum will work on projects that have grown out of his work at the school. "I can't imagine a better place to work than Haystack," he said. "I am leaving to continue the investigations that the school has inspired in me—to write and speak about creativity, to explore connections between art and science, and to consult with organizations on how to develop and maintain dynamic programs."

Lissa Hunter, Chair of the Board of Trustees said, "Anyone who has been to Haystack knows how important Stuart Kestenbaum has been to the quality of the place and its programs. It is a world-class institution in large part because of the dedication, skill and creativity of its director. Now he will be using those same qualities to enrich other aspects of the arts in Maine, around the country and the world."

Located in Deer Isle, Haystack is internationally renowned for its intensive workshops, conferences, and residencies. Kestenbaum will be leaving his position in May 2015. A national search is planned.