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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Haystack Announces New Director Paul Sacaridiz

DEER ISLE—The Board of Trustees of Haystack Mountain School of Crafts is pleased to announce the appointment of Paul Sacaridiz as its new director. An accomplished artist, educator, and administrator, Paul is at present professor and chair of the Department of Art at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He brings with him over sixteen years of experience in higher education and administration, as well as leadership in not-for-profit arts organizations.

Paul Sacaridiz has been named a fellow with the National Council of Arts Administrators and is a recent inductee to the International Academy of Ceramics in Geneva, Switzerland. He has served on the board of the Archie Bray Foundation in Helena, Montana and was named president-elect of the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA). His awards include the 2013 Romnes Faculty Fellowship at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the Joyce J. and Gerald A. Bartell Award in the Arts for recognition of his outreach and public service involving the larger community.

Lissa Hunter, chair of the Haystack Board of Trustees and co-chair of the search committee says, “Paul joins the staff at Haystack at an exciting time in its sixty-five year history. The school is a world leader in craft education and research as a result of the stewardship of Stuart Kestenbaum, director for the past twenty-seven years. Paul brings the skills, passion and experience to continue the core mission of Haystack while being open to the possibilities that the future will certainly bring.”

Paul Sacaridiz speaks passionately about Haystack, “There are few places like Haystack, and those who have been there understand this in the most intimate of ways. As a student attending a session over twenty-five years ago, the experience left an indelible mark on me as a young artist and provided a window into a world that valued making, materiality, beauty, passion, risk and failure. Decades later, teaching there impacted how I thought about education, community and learning, and reinforced for me the special ability craft has to teach us things in a way that few other practices are capable of.”

In looking to the future, Paul says, “I feel a great responsibility towards the field of craft and want to be in a position to both celebrate and preserve that history while also asking challenging questions about its role in contemporary culture...There is tremendous work to be done right now and I cannot imagine leading a more interesting and relevant organization than Haystack.”

Paul Sacaridiz will be moving to Deer Isle with his partner, Jennifer A. Lapham, and their two children, Ezekiel and Oona, later this summer. He will begin his tenure as director of Haystack on September 1.

Haystack is an international, non-profit, studio program in the arts offering summer workshops to craftmakers and visual artists of all skill levels led by prominent faculty artists, and programs for Maine residents in the spring and fall. The school's award-winning campus is located in Sunshine on Deer Isle and Haystack's *Center for Community Programs* is located at 22 Church Street in Deer Isle village. For more information, call 348-2306, email: haystack@haystack-mtn.org, or visit www.haystack-mtn.org.

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