

Applique Compost Jar
2008
Glaze Fired Terracotta



KARI RADASCH

My first trip to Haystack was as a Technical Assistant for Catharine Hiersoux in 1997. This came only days after graduating from Maine College of Art with my BFA in Ceramics. These two weeks changed the course of my life as an artist in three important ways.

First, this was the only time that I had ever made work or inhabited a creative space outside of academia. I remember that with this freedom came a strong sense of self determination and autonomy. This is the feeling that I hope for everyday in the studio.

Second, by observing the local creative community, dialoguing with studio artists, and participating in the exchange of ideas, I caught a glimpse of the life I wanted. This still fuels me today.

The third way was much more cause and effect. After assisting Catharine Hiersoux (my workshop leader) for two weeks, she invited me to assist her in Berkeley, California studio. I lived and worked with her for nearly three years. Not only did I gain valuable insight into techniques, work ethics, gallery “dos and don’ts”, but I also made a life long friend and mentor. This experience has since given way to new experiences and those to others and others and so on.

My time at Haystack is still giving. It influences how I teach, mentor, and inspire my students to go out into the world and make things happen for themselves.