

**POLLY ULLRICH** is an independent critic and curator in Chicago, writing about visual art, with a special interest in the place of the crafts in contemporary culture. She received an MA in Art History, Theory, and Criticism from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and an MA in Journalism from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her criticism has appeared in *Sculpture*, *frieze*, *Aperture*, *American Craft*, *Surface Design Journal*, and *Metalsmith* and her essay, “Workmanship: The Hand and Body as Perceptual Tools,” appeared in *Objects and Meaning: New Perspectives on Art and Craft*, in 2004. Two recent curatorial projects include: *Response: Art and the Art of Criticism* in 2009 at I-space gallery in Chicago and *Material Difference: Soft Sculpture and Wall Works*, at the Chicago Cultural Center in 2007. A former chair of the Chicago Art Critics Association, Polly Ullrich is part of an editorial board organizing a new Chicago art journal, *Prompt*.

Polly Ullrich’s talk, *In the Midst of the World: the Thinking Hand*, will explore “the hand” as a radical aesthetic force that affirms the world as an open and dynamic experience.

2010 Summer Conference: *The Hand*  
July 11-15, 2010

Haystack Mountain School of Crafts