

Cuff With Inlaid 'U'
Sterling Silver, Copper



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As a self supporting, studio artist Haystack has been the resource for me to reenergize myself and take me in new directions. As an artist I feel it is important to continue to grow and explore rather than repeat safe predictable concepts. This can be tricky because as a studio artist I have to be able to keep the “marketplace” happy in order to survive and pay the bills. Yet, as an artist I need to keep myself alive by growing, exploring and changing.

I started as a studio assistant right after college and worked with Emmy Van Leersum from Holland. Her paring down of form to its minimalist shape dovetailed with my work with John Prip at RISD. Another assistantship allowed me to work with plastics scientist Harry Hollander exploring resins and color which I was able to apply to my work.

Two Octobers ago I attended five wonderful days at Haystack at New Works. This is an invitational for people who had taught at Haystack to come and work on new ideas. It was a godsend for me. I never have the luxury of five days of unrestricted time to just work on new concepts without answering phones and working, cooking dinner and doing laundry ---time just devoted to exploring a concept. October is at a busy production time (making jewelry for November delivery to stores for the Holiday season) and not the time to be leaving the studio. However, I knew that this was important. Very important. I arrived with a question* and left with answers---answers that I have been questioning and exploring ever since.

Coming to Haystack has been a version of a MacArthur grant for me. I always meet someone, learn something, see something in a way I have never seen before even though I may have looked at it for a long time and thought I totally understood it.

Haystack always leaves me with questions and gives me answers. It is a profound place.