



Textile Writ Large, an installation in Haystack's fiber studio by Warren Seelig and Philip Beasley in 1997, was an artistic experiment that continues to inspire Seelig's work to this date.

WARREN SEELIG

Warren Seelig lives and works in Rockland, Maine. He holds the rank of distinguished visiting professor in the Craft/Fibers program at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia where he teaches, curates and writes on various subjects related to Textile and Fiber. He received a B.S. from the Philadelphia College of Textiles & Science and an M.F.A. from Cranbrook Academy of Art. His work is in the collections of museums, colleges and in private and corporate collections world wide. He has taught at Haystack

My first teaching experience at Haystack in 1978 had a profound impact on my life and creative work. I had recently graduated from Cranbrook and Fran Merritt asked me to teach a weaving workshop, my first anywhere, and my initial visit to this magical place on the coast of Maine. . I believe it was my naiveté, fear and natural insecurity of not really knowing what it was that I could offer students that helped create an incredibly fertile atmosphere of learning that I had never before experienced. Although I came to the studio well equipped to teach about the possibilities of new materials and weave structures, something much greater occurred which was rather unexplainable. The catalyst was Haystack. The place was alive; an atmosphere of caring and support was everywhere, in the woodwork, among students, teachers and all who occupied this unreal world. The shared enthusiasm and belief that meaningful work was growing on those looms, opened a new creative space, if ever so small, for all who participated. I unknowingly achieved for myself what I had hoped for in my students. Twenty years later I had a similar experience when teaching a site specific collaborative course with architect Philip Beasley called Textile Writ Large. With absolute uncertainty about the consequences of our proposed course, Philip and I along side a small group of highly energized students constructed an illusive twig veil which floated large, above the floor of the magnificent cathedral woods beyond the deck of the papermaking studio. That work inspired a series of installations and “shadowfields”, often utilizing twig, rock and other natural materials for the first time. This event a decade ago inspired an important new direction in my work up to the present.