

KATIE GREENE

Quite simply and yet, so significantly, Haystack has been my B.A., my Masters and my Ph.D. It has been the clearest path to my personal artistic development and a constant source of renewal and inspiration. Some of the very best lessons that I have learned about how to teach and how to learn have come from the extraordinary faculty that is at the heart of the Haystack experience and from the generosity and support of the administration and staff. Down to a person, everyone who makes Haystack work is part of the magic that is Haystack.

I am so moved when a session ends because I am completely touched by the journey. And then often, while I am working alone, I am visited by words of wisdom from former Haystack teachers, reminding me of ways to approach the creative process. Most recently, at this year's Studio Based Learning session, Stu Kestenbaum read from a list of *Corita's Rules and Hints for Teachers and Students*, "Don't try to be creative and analyze at the same time, they're different processes." Absolutely true and important to remember.

As with my own experiences, Studio Based Learning and its follow-up High School Mentor Program have become life-changing programs for participating students. Lucky to have been part of the program from its inception in 1992, I have seen how the circle goes around and how, as the saying goes, good breeds good. Students who were once SBL participants are now workshop teaching assistants or have been inspired, while still in high school, to build their own forge. Inspiring others through process and giving back to one's community is a very special and constant Haystack message.

To be asked to be part of any show is a great compliment, but to be asked by Haystack to show in its Center for Community Programs gallery is a particular honor for me. I can only say thank you from the very center of my being, Haystack.