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**Executive Director Paul Sacaridiz leaving Haystack to become the
Director of Cranbrook Academy of Art**

Deer Isle, Maine—The Haystack Mountain School of Crafts Board of Trustees announced today that Paul Sacaridiz will be leaving his position as Executive Director at the end of April, to become the Maxine and Stuart Frankel Director of Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

Paul Sacaridiz has been a visionary and tireless leader at Haystack. Under his directorship, Haystack has expanded and thrived, while maintaining a tradition of intimacy and community building. Not only has Paul spearheaded the tripling of Haystack's endowment and doubled the annual fund, he has also overseen the creation of a Strategic Plan that focuses on reducing barriers of entry and diversifying faculty to shape a more equitable culture of craft. Over the past two years, Paul also deftly steered the School through the challenges of the pandemic—he secured funding to retain and increase staff, created and hosted cutting-edge programming for a worldwide audience, and ensured that the Haystack Fab Lab could support the regional community with the production of personal protective equipment (PPE) for frontline workers. Thanks to Paul's remarkable stewardship, Haystack remains a leader in craft education and a unique space for experiential learning. Paul leaves the School with a clear vision for the future, and strong resources to achieve new goals. His energy, generosity, and collaborative spirit will be deeply missed at Haystack, but we wish him the very best. Cranbrook will be lucky to have him. –Ayumi Horie, Board President, Haystack Mountain School of Crafts

Sacaridiz has been the Executive Director at Haystack since 2015, leading the School through a remarkable period of growth and evolution. During his tenure, he focused on organizational development and put in place long-range planning to guide the organization into its next chapter. He played a key role in the drafting of a comprehensive Strategic Plan that refined core commitments, mission, and values while establishing a ten-year vision, and five-year goals. He also launched a long-range campus planning process with a focus on accessibility, historic preservation, and sustainability. He navigated the School through two years of the pandemic, developed free online programs with more than 4,000 views from participants from thirty-eight countries, and completed major studio and infrastructure upgrades to the historic campus. Sacaridiz also successfully led Haystack through a period of historic fundraising that has helped ensure fiscal sustainability for years to come. The endowment increased by nearly 300%,

growing from \$9 million to over \$24 million, with new funds supporting programming, scholarships, operations, and campus preservation. Haystack's annual fund also saw unprecedented growth during this same period, setting record breaking totals for five consecutive years. Underscoring all of this work has been a deep commitment to antiracism, diversity, equity, inclusion, which has influenced every aspect of the School from scholarships and programming to organizational partnerships and governance.

Prior to his work at Haystack, Sacaridiz served as Professor and Chair of the Department of Art at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and earlier in his career was the Associate Director of the now Wonsook Kim School of Art at Illinois State University. He was a Fellow with the National Council of Arts Administrators and has extensive experience serving on nonprofit boards including the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) and the Craft Emergency Relief Fund (CERF+). As a speaker he has lectured nationally on art, education, and leadership through the College Art Association, Alliance of Artists Communities, American Craft Council, International Academy of Ceramics, and the Smithsonian Institution.

Upon leaving Haystack, Sacaridiz will become the Maxine and Stuart Frankel Director of the Cranbrook Academy of Art, the country's top ranked, graduate-only program in architecture, design, and fine art. He will be the Academy of Art's eleventh Director since Finnish-American architect Eliel Saarinen first held the role in 1932.

"The past seven years have been some of the most rewarding ones of my career. It has been a profound joy to work alongside a remarkable staff as we made changes that will have a lasting impact on the field of craft. The strength of the School is truly reflected through the commitment and care the staff bring to this remarkable place. I am grateful to the Board of Trustees for their unwavering support and to our community, near and far, for believing so deeply in the mission of the School. -Paul Sacaridiz

Ellen Wieske has been appointed Interim Executive Director and will assume that role at the beginning of May. A highly celebrated metalsmith, Wieske has been involved at Haystack for more than twenty-five years and currently serves as Deputy Director. The Haystack Board of Trustees will launch a national search for a new Executive Director in the coming months.

ABOUT HAYSTACK

Founded in 1950, Haystack has welcomed people from diverse backgrounds to explore the intersections of craft, art, and design in broad and expansive ways. Though most people spend only short periods of time at Haystack, the experience of being at the School has influenced generations of artists and helped to define a broader field. The School offers one and two-week workshops, as well as artist residencies, public lectures, tours, and dedicated programming for Maine residents. Haystack also functions as a think-tank, publishing annual monographs and organizing a variety of conferences and symposia for the field of craft. Many of these have been presented in collaboration with other institutions such as the MIT Center for Bits and Atoms, The Center for Craft, The Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, Smithsonian Institution, and

Indigo Arts Alliance. The award-winning campus was designed by noted American architect Edward Larrabee Barnes, and opened in 1961 when the School relocated to Deer Isle.

MISSION

Haystack connects people through craft. Located on the coast of Maine, Haystack provides the freedom to engage with materials and develop new ideas in a supportive and inclusive community. Serving an ever-changing group of makers and thinkers, we are dedicated to working and learning alongside one another, while exploring the intersections of craft, art, and design in broad and expansive ways.

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