

Scholarships and Fellowships

J. Fred Woell Scholarship Fund

The J. Fred Woell Scholarship Fund is being established in honor of J. Fred Woell (1934–2015), who was a longtime Haystack friend, former staff member, and beloved instructor.

Fred was a renowned metalsmith and Maine Master who described himself simply as “someone who liked to make things.” Through characteristic wry humor he was known for his found object assemblages critiquing the throwaway culture of late 20th century America. He found continuity and solace in nature and held a great respect for the environment, and was proud of his time as an Eagle Scout.

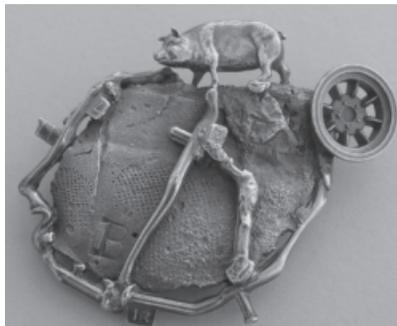
Fred’s involvement with Haystack began in 1969. In addition to being a frequent teacher at the school, he was part of the ‘committee’ that ran the school in 1988, during which he served as the Interim Director. Fred was also an assistant director under Fran Merritt for a time, and from 1997–2001, he served as head of maintenance. Fred’s touch is still seen in many of the details of the studios and cabins at Haystack, especially the metals studio, which, aptly enough, he contributed many hours to improving its interior layout, design, and function.

“Fred’s students were as important to him as his art work. He loved teaching and felt that Haystack provided the most ideal learning environment—outside of grades or evaluation; learning for the fun of it.”

Patricia Wheeler,
Fred’s wife,
mixed media painter

“Fred and I worked ten years together at Haystack. We became fast friends and it was fun to work with him, especially in the spring and fall when we both savored the beauty of the Haystack environment during the quiet time. I loved his commitments: to his own art, to teaching, to facilitating the process of making art, and to the healing power of art. Later, after he left Haystack, we would see each other less frequently, but always his first question of substance was, “so, how’s your work going?” Of course, he was referring to my art practice, not to my job at Haystack. Fred understood that was essential; that we must keep on working, that we must keep on making art. He never stopped—I was lucky enough to sit with him for a short while on the eve of his passing, and he kept telling me that he might need a certain glue in order to complete his current project, and knowing Fred, I’m certain that he’s still working on it.”

Gene Koch,
painter/sculptor



Marketplace by J. Fred Woell, circa 2006.



J. Fred Woell in the Haystack Metals Studio.

“Fred’s influence, both as a teacher and as an artist, have been subtle but profound”

Claire Sanford,
metalsmith

“I learned from Fred not to aim for or fear perfection, but to think of things as being “just right” for the situation at hand. This allows work and life to flow. I can hear his laugh now if I were to say, “Fred could make things “just right” perfectly.”

I have been blessed by a dose of Fred’s “dog chasing his tail” wisdom, which Fred’s work speaks to. We run away from ourselves, only to see our tails. While pointing out the depths of a dire situation, Fred could bring one to laughter. We need to laugh at ourselves and drop the fear. When we come to this realization, change can occur. Stop. Stay. Sit. Good girl/boy. Cookie. With Fred, it always ends with a treat.”

Frank Pitcher

Scholarship Fund

Frank Pitcher, a longtime Deer Isle resident, close friend and former Haystack colleague of Fred's—Frank served as a Haystack summer assistant in the early 90s and Haystack's studio coordinator from 1993–2001—has initiated the scholarship fund along with Fred's widow, Patricia Wheeler.

In 2002, before the Iraq war began, Fred, Patricia, and Frank stood vigil with Island Peace & Justice—at a site across from the Deer Isle High School where members of the group continue to stand vigil each Monday afternoon—to protest the impending conflict. After the war began in 2003 and throughout the US engagement in Iraq, Frank began to make a ceramic cup for every soldier killed during the war—to celebrate the life of the soldier, as opposed to his/her death. He has kept most of the cups and is now selling them in order to donate the funds raised to benefit this new scholarship in memory of Fred. Frank's cups are on sale at 44 North in Deer Isle and, in summer, Stonington, Maine.

To date, over \$5,000 has been donated—some as direct gifts and some from individuals that have given to the scholarship fund by purchasing Frank's cups or Fred's work, books, and catalogs and also by donating pieces that were sold during

In 2015 Haystack awarded over 150 scholarships and fellowships to students—from as near as Deer Isle and as far away as Palestine, Sweden, and Brazil. Support for these scholarships comes from our endowment, annual auctions, grants, and contributions.

There are 78 named scholarship and fellowship funds to date. A named scholarship can be created with a gift of \$30,000, and a fellowship can be created with a gift of \$40,000.

Fred's career retrospective show, *J. Fred Woell: Art is an Accident*, in October; these gifts are recognized collectively through contributions made from the Estate of J. Fred Woell.

\$30,000 is needed to fully endow the scholarship.

Those wishing to give to the J. Fred Woell Scholarship Fund may do so by writing a check made out to Haystack with *J. Fred Woell Scholarship* in the subject line or make a gift with credit card by calling the Haystack office (207) 348-2306 or by donating securely online at haystack-mtn.org.

Once fully funded, the J. Fred Woell Scholarship Fund will support a student whose work is reflective of the thought-provoking spirit and political satire that characterized Fred's work for decades. The scholarship will cover tuition, room & board, and when fully funded, will be awarded annually.

ONLINE AUCTION

On February 2, 2016, Haystack will mount a three-day online auction. These auctions are developed in partnership with eBay Giving Works and provide a venue for sharing a wide selection of items (25 or more), which are created by members of Haystack's internationally renowned faculty, with proceeds benefitting the school's scholarship fund and improvements to our award-winning facility. Nearly 25% of the students who attend Haystack receive financial aid, and your support through bidding will have a major impact on students and our ability to provide them with access to our programming.

Visit haystack-mtn.org for more updates and details about the online auction as it approaches. Contact Haystack at (207) 348-2306 or haystack@haystack-mtn.org with any questions.

Fab Lab

2015 marked a busy, fifth season of Haystack's fab lab. The studio was supervised by MIT doctoral students and staff, as well as other members of the fab lab network, consulting and assisting participants in the school's new residency program and faculty and students enrolled in session workshops. The fab lab provides opportunities for explorations that complement studio practices and fosters discussions and investigations between the traditional analog approaches to making and advanced digital fabrication.

The 2015 Haystack fab lab staff included:

Kenzo Abiko, AS220
Maria Melo Bento, MIT
Jonathan Bobrow, MIT
Matt Carney, MIT
Dan Chen, MIT
Elliot Clapp, RISD
Anthony Davlin
Christopher Dewart, MIT
Jonathan Doolan, Haystack
Jenna Fitzel, MIT
David Forgham-Bailey, Fab Lab,
Manchester, UK
Neil Gershenfeld, MIT
Director, Center for Bits and Atoms
Jonathan Grinham, MIT
Lara Henderson, AS220
Taylor Levy, MIT
Nadya Peek, MIT Center for
Bits and Atoms
David Robert, MIT
Che-Wei Wang, MIT
Wade Warman, University of Maine,
Orono