



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Alana VanDerwerker materials related to Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, 1950-2019, in the Archives of American Art

Emma Eubank

2023 July 7

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Alana VanDerwerker materials related to Haystack Mountain School of Crafts
<b>Date:</b>	circa 1950-2019
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.vandalan
<b>Creator:</b>	VanDerwerker, Alana C.
<b>Extent:</b>	2.5 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The Haystack Mountain School of Craft-related materials of art historian Alana VanDerwerker date from circa 1950-2019 and measure 2.5 linear feet. The materials document her research on the Haystack Mountain School of Crafts' development from the 1950s-1970s, which culminated in her published book <i>Haystack at Liberty</i> , through correspondence, writings, interviews with founding Haystack artists, photographic material, and research on various topics related to Haystack.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The collection was donated in 2022 by Alana VanDerwerker.

### Related Materials

Also found in the Archives of American Art is the Haystack Mountain School of Crafts records, circa 1950-1969; an oral history interview with Francis Sumner Merritt, 1979 May 25-June 25; an oral history interview with Jack Lenor Larsen, 2004 February 6-8; and oral history interviews with others researched and interviewed by VanDerwerker.

### Processing Information

The collection was processed, and a finding aid prepared by Emma Eubank in 2023.

### Preferred Citation

Alana VanDerwerker materials related to Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, circa 1950-2019. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

This collection is open for research. Access to original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center.

Researchers interested in accessing audiovisual recordings in this collection must use access copies. Contact References Services for more information.

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## Biographical / Historical

Alana VanDerwerker (1950- ) is an author and arts administrator in Waldoboro, Maine who has devoted herself to preserving the history of the Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, located in Deer Isle, Maine. VanDerwerker served as the initial secretary of board for the Maine Crafts Association, an organization which worked closely with Haystack to promote collaborative programs for artists. VanDerwerker became friends with co-founder and director of Haystack, Frances Sumner Merritt (1913-2000), who asked her to document the school.

Founded in 1950 as a space for more traditional craftsmen to create and teach together, Haystack Mountain School of Crafts would soon include writers, metalworkers, and mixed media artists in its programming. Operational during the summers, visiting artists teach classes and residential artists produce and exhibited artwork on-site. In 2019, after decades of collecting documentation and conducting oral histories about the site and its residents, VanDerwerker published *Haystack at Liberty: From Insight to Mountain to Island* in a limited edition.

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## Scope and Contents

The Haystack Mountain School of Craft-related materials of art historian Alana VanDerwerker date from circa 1950-2019 and measure 2.5 linear feet. The materials document her research on the Haystack Mountain School of Crafts' development from the 1950s-1970s, which culminated in her published book *Haystack at Liberty*, through correspondence, writings, interviews with founding Haystack artists, photographic material, and research on various topics related to Haystack.

The correspondence series contains letters between VanDerwerker and notable figures at Haystack, including Francis and Priscilla Merritt, Margaret Beasom Swart, and former Haystack Director Howard Evans. The writings series includes notecards on persons related to Haystack, notebooks of interview musings and archival work, several unpublished essays and appendices by VanDerwerker, and materials related to an unpublished volume edited by Ned Cooke. The interviews series is largely made up of Haystack artist interviews by VanDerwerker in pairs of cassette recordings and transcripts. The photographic material series contains snapshots and negatives of Haystack's development, classes and daily life, with photographs used in VanDerwerker's book grouped by chapter. The research files series contains printed material concerning Haystack, and notes and teaching files from Jack Lenor Larsen and Janet TenBroeck.

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## Arrangement

This collection is arranged as 5 series.

- Series 1: Correspondence, circa 1958-2005 (0.3 linear feet: Box 1, OV 6)
- Series 2: Writings, circa 1956-2017 (0.4 linear feet: Box 1)
- Series 3: Interviews, circa 1958-2019 (1 linear foot: Boxes 1, 4-5)
- Series 4: Photographic Material, circa 1951-1996 (0.5 linear feet: Boxes 1-2)
- Series 5: Research Files, circa 1950-2016 (0.3 linear feet: Boxes 2-3)

## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

### Types of Materials:

- Interviews
- Sound recordings

### Names:

- Haystack Mountain School of Crafts
- Larsen, Jack Lenor
- Merritt, Francis Sumner, 1913-2000

### Occupations:

- Art historians -- Maine
- Arts administrators -- Maine

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Correspondence, circa 1958-2005

#### 0.3 Linear feet (Box 1, OV 6)

Scope and Contents: The correspondence series contains letters between VanDerwerker and notable figures at Haystack, including Francis and Priscilla Merritt, Margaret Sewell and former Haystack Director Howard Evans. Two folders and one oversize item in this series contain mixed material, handmade cards from the Merritts.

Box 1, Folder 1	A, circa 1983
Box 1, Folder 2	Archives of American Art, circa 1981-1994
Box 1, Folder 3	C, circa 1987
Box 1, Folder 4	D, circa 1982
Box 1, Folder 5	Howard M. Evans, circa 1981-2002
Box 1, Folder 6	H, circa 1982
Box 1, Folder 7	Haystack, circa 2005
Box 1, Folder 8	James Howell with Howell Design Associates, circa 1982
Box 1, Folder 9	K, Undated
Box 1, Folder 10	M, circa 1981-1987
Box 1, Folder 11-14	Francis and Priscilla Merritt, circa 1977-2001
Oversize 6, Item 1	Francis and Priscilla Merritt, circa 1986
Box 1, Folder 15	S, circa 1982-1984
Box 1, Folder 16	Margaret Sewell, circa 1981-1983
Box 1, Folder 17	T, circa 1961-1989
Box 1, Folder 18	Z, circa 1990
Box 1, Folder 19	Unidentified and First Name Only, circa 1958-1985

Box 1, Folder 20

Invitation Lists and Responses for the Merritts' 50th Wedding Anniversary, circa  
1960

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## Series 2: Writings, circa 1956-2017

### 0.4 Linear feet (Box 1)

Scope and Contents: The writings series includes VanDerwerker's notecards on persons related to Haystack, notebooks of interview musings and archival searches, several unpublished essays and appendices on Haystack history by VanDerwerker, a reflection by Haystack instructor Wayne Higby on his pottery work, and materials related to an unpublished volume edited by Ned Cooke.

Box 1, Folder 21	Artists and Related Persons Notecards: A-K, circa 2017
Box 1, Folder 22	Artists and Related Persons Notecards: L-Z, circa 2017
Box 1, Folder 23	Quote and Source Notecards, circa 1956-1982
Box 1, Folder 24	Notes on Artist Contacts, Undated
Box 1, Folder 25	Notebooks containing Diary Entries and Notes on Haystack Artists, Faculty, and Conducted Interviews, circa 1979-1987
Box 1, Folder 26	Notebook containing Notes from Visits to Raymond H. Fogler Special Collections, circa 1991-1992
Box 1, Folder 27	Proposed Article for Craft Report, Undated
Box 1, Folder 28	Unpublished Appendix, "Lists of Participants", Undated
Box 1, Folder 29	Unpublished Pages of Appendix C, "Weave Philosophy", circa 1992
Box 1, Folder 30	Unpublished Essay and Related Notes for Volume edited by Ned Cooke, circa 1995-2004
Box 1, Folder 31	Correspondence, Pitches and Agreement regarding Unpublished Essay for Volume edited by Ned Cooke, circa 1995-1999
Box 1, Folder 32	Wayne Higby Reflection on His Pottery, circa 1980
Box 1, Folder 33	Unattributed Reflections on Findhorn and Haystack, Undated

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## Series 3: Interviews, circa 1958-2019

### 1 Linear foot (Boxes 1, 4-5)

Scope and Contents: The interviews series contains Haystack artist interviews by VanDerwerker, in the form of audio cassette recordings paired with transcripts. VanDerwerker's original list of the cassettes with her notes is included. Notably, VanDerwerker conducted several interviews with the Merritts, Jack Lenor Larsen, and William Brown. A few cassettes have no corresponding transcript. One transcript is of an interview with VanDerwerker about her book on Haystack.

Box 1, Folder 34	Original Inventory of Cassettes with Interviews by Alana VanDerwerker, circa 1979-1985
Box 4, Item 1	Interview with Edward L. Barnes, Architect for Haystack, by Alana VanDerwerker (1 Sept 1987), circa 1987 1 Sound cassette
Box 1, Folder 35	Interview with Edward Barnes by Alana VanDerwerker (1 Sept 1987) Transcript, circa 1958-2004
Box 4, Item 2	Interview with Cynthia Bringle by Alana VanDerwerker (17 June 1985) at Haystack about Early Haystack, circa 1985 1 Sound cassette
Box 1, Folder 36	Interview with Cynthia Bringle by Alana VanDerwerker (17 June 1985) Transcript, circa 1985
Box 4, Item 3-4	Interview with William Brown by Francis Merritt (June 1981), circa 1981 2 Sound cassettes
Box 1, Folder 37	Interview with William Brown and Don Wilcox by Francis Merritt (9 June 1981) Transcript, circa 1981
Box 4, Item 5	Interview with Ron and Tess Burke by Alana VanDerwerker (11 Aug 1983), circa 1983 1 Sound cassette
Box 1, Folder 38	Interview with Ron and Tess Burke by Alana VanDerwerker (11 Aug 1983) Transcript, circa 1983
Box 4, Item 6	Interview with Arline Fisch by Alana VanDerwerker (25 July 1983) at Haystack, circa 1983 1 Sound cassette
Box 1, Folder 39	Interview with Arline Fisch by Alana VanDerwerker (25 July 1983) Transcript, circa 1983
Box 4, Item 7	Interview with Charles Gailis by Alana VanDerwerker (27 Aug 1991) at Haystack, circa 1991

1 Sound cassette

Box 1, Folder 40	Interview with Charles Gailis by Alana VanDerwerker (27 Aug 1991) Transcript, circa 1991
Box 1, Folder 41	Interview with Charles Gailis, Francis Merritt, and William Brown by Alana VanDerwerker (2 Oct 1984) Transcript and Writeup, circa 1984
Box 4, Item 8	Interview with Nadya Goldsmith by Alana VanDerwerker (19 Oct 1989) in Killington, VT, circa 1989 1 Sound cassette
Box 1, Folder 42	Interview with Nadya Goldsmith by Alana VanDerwerker (19 Oct 1989) Transcript, circa 1989
Box 4, Item 9	Interview with Ted Hallman by Alana VanDerwerker (17 June 1988) at Haystack, circa 1988 1 Sound cassette
Box 1, Folder 43	Interview with Ted Hallman by Alana VanDerwerker (17 June 1988) Transcript, circa 1988
Box 4, Item 10	Interview with Ebba Hance by Alana VanDerwerker (12 July 1984), circa 1984 1 Sound cassette
Box 1, Folder 44	Interview with Ebba Hance by Alana VanDerwerker (12 July 1984) Transcript, circa 1984
Box 4, Item 11	Interview with Vincent Hartgen by Alana VanDerwerker (3 May 1982) at Haystack about the ME Art Scene in the 50s, circa 1982 1 Sound cassette
Box 1, Folder 45	Interview with Vincent Hartgen by Alana VanDerwerker (3 May 1982) Transcript, circa 1982
Box 4, Item 12	Interview with William Holst by Alana VanDerwerker (1 April 1987), circa 1987 1 Sound cassette
Box 1, Folder 46	<a href="#">Interview with William Holst by Alana VanDerwerker (1 April 1987) Transcript, circa 1987</a>
Box 4, Item 13	Interview with Jack Larsen and Howard Evans by Alana VanDerwerker (July 1981) at Haystack, circa 1981 1 Sound cassette
Box 1, Folder 47	<a href="#">Interview with Jack Larsen and Howard Evans by Alana VanDerwerker (Summer 1981) Transcript, circa 1981</a>
Box 4, Item 14	Interview with Emily Mason-Kahn by Alana VanDerwerker (23 Oct 1986), circa 1986

	1 Sound cassette
Box 1, Folder 48	Interview with Emily Mason-Kahn by Alana VanDerwerker (24 Oct 1986), circa 1986
Box 4, Item 15-16	Interview with Francis Merritt and William Brown by Alana VanDerwerker (Oct 1984), circa 1984 2 Sound cassettes
Box 1, Folder 49	Interview with Francis Merritt and William Brown by Alana VanDerwerker (Oct 1984) Transcript and Notes, circa 1984
Box 4, Item 17	Interview with Emily Muir by Alana VanDerwerker (25 June 1982), circa 1982 1 Sound cassette
Box 1, Folder 50	Interview with Emily Muir by Alana VanDerwerker (25 June 1982) Transcript, circa 1982
Box 5, Item 1	Interview with Kay Sekimachi by Alana VanDerwerker (27 Aug 1983) at Haystack, circa 1983 1 Sound cassette
Box 1, Folder 51	Interview with Kay Sekimachi by Alana VanDerwerker (27 Aug 1983) Transcript and Reflection, circa 1983
Box 1, Folder 52	Interview with Marni Sewell by Alana VanDerwerker (19 March 1981) Transcript and Writeup, circa 1981
Box 5, Item 2	Thoughts after Interviewing Marni Sewell (Feb 1983), Writing Problems (1983), and Rambling to Get Hold of Structure, circa 1983 1 Sound cassette
Box 5, Item 3-4	Interview with Margaret Swart and Fran Merritt by Alana VanDerwerker (11 Nov 1979) about Early Haystack, circa 1979 2 Sound cassettes
Box 1, Folder 53	Interview with Margaret Swart and Francis Merritt by Alana VanDerwerker (11 Nov 1979) Transcript, circa 1979
Box 5, Item 5	Interview with Byron Temple by Alana VanDerwerker (23 June 1982) at Haystack, circa 1982 1 Sound cassette
Box 1, Folder 54	<a href="#">Interview with Byron Temple by Alana VanDerwerker (23 June 1982) Transcript, circa 1982-1992</a>
Box 5, Item 6	Interview with Janet TenBroeck, Francis and Priscilla Merritt by Alana VanDerwerker (17 Feb 1982) about Haystack and JLLA Albers Notes, circa 1982

	1 Sound cassette
Box 1, Folder 55	Interview with Janet TenBroeck by Alana VanDerwerker (17 Feb 1982) Transcript, circa 1982
Box 1, Folder 56	Interview with Alana VanDerwerker by Ron Beard from WERU Community Radio, "Art Amazes, Craft Satisfies" (8 Nov 2019) Transcript, circa 2019
Box 5, Item 7	Interview with Howard Evans, Second Director of Haystack, by Alana VanDerwerker (13 April 1996) about Haystack, circa 1996 1 Sound cassette
Box 5, Item 8	Interview with Lissa Hunter by Alana VanDerwerker (Jan 1989), circa 1989 1 Sound cassette
Box 5, Item 9	Discussion between Francis and Priscilla Merritt, and Gerritt with Alana VanDerwerker (Mar 1983) in William Brown's Parlor, circa 1983 1 Sound cassette
Box 5, Item 10	Francis Merritt's Easter Slideshow Comments about Old Haystack Memories (1985), circa 1985 1 Sound cassette
Box 5, Item 11-12	Conversation with Priscilla and Francis Merritt (Mar 1985) Recalling Early 50s Haystackers in Centennial House, circa 1985 2 Sound cassettes
Box 5, Item 13	Conversation between Gerritt and Alana VanDerwerker (Feb 1982), circa 1982 1 Sound cassette
Box 5, Item 14	Mary Nyberg Personal History, Undated 1 Sound cassette
Box 5, Item 15	Old Timers at Haystack, Undated 1 Sound cassette
Box 5, Item 16	Ramona Solberg Personal History, Undated 1 Sound cassette

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## Series 4: Photographic Material, circa 1951-1996

### 0.5 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

Scope and Contents: The photographic material series contains snapshots and negatives of Haystack's development, resident artists and instructors, classes, studios, produced artwork and daily life on campus. Photographs of Jack Lenor Larsen and the Merritts have been grouped separately. Photographs used in VanDerwerker's book are grouped by chapter.

Box 1, Folder 57	Contact Sheet, Negatives, and Snapshots used in "Chapter 1: The Tapestry Needle", circa 1951-1975
Box 1, Folder 58	Snapshots used in "Chapter 2: Michigan", circa 1952
Box 1, Folder 59	Snapshots used in "Chapter 3: Paving the Way", circa 1951-1952
Box 1, Folder 60	Snapshots used in "Chapter 4: Taproots", circa 1952-1954
Box 1, Folder 61	Snapshots used in "Chapter 5: Second Phase", circa 1952-1956
Box 1, Folder 62	Snapshots used in "Chapter 6: Freedom to Fail", circa 1954-1957
Box 1, Folder 63	Snapshots used in "Chapter 7: Clay Connections", circa 1955-1961
Box 1, Folder 64	Snapshots and Negatives used in Chapter 8: "Sustained Threads", circa 1958-1961
Box 1, Folder 65	Snapshots used in "Chapter 9: Highland to Island", circa 1960
Box 1, Folder 66	Snapshots used in "Chapter 10: Getting on the Point", circa 1961-1962
Box 1, Folder 67	Snapshots and Contact Sheets used in "Chapter 11: Being on the Point", circa 1961-1962
Box 1, Folder 68	Snapshots used in "Chapter 12: Abiding Air", circa 1951-1995
Box 1, Folder 69	Snapshots, Negatives and Slide with Captions for Unpublished Volume, edited by Ned Cooke, circa 1958-1996
Box 1, Folder 70	Artist Individual Portraits, circa 1951-1975
Box 1, Folder 71	Group Photos, circa 1952-1971
Box 1, Folder 72	Francis, Priscilla, and Steve Merritt, circa 1951-1973
Box 1, Folder 73	Ed Sewell, circa 1951-1952
Box 2, Folder 1	Jack Larsen Portraits and Photography, circa 1952-1954

Box 2, Folder 2-3	Artwork Produced at Haystack, circa 1951-1961
Box 2, Folder 4	Photography by Linda Kreives, Undated
Box 2, Folder 5-6	Artists and Students at Work, circa 1951-1977
Box 2, Folder 7	Building Haystack, circa 1960
Box 2, Folder 8	Daily Life at Haystack, circa 1952-1977
Box 2, Folder 9	Exhibitions and Performances at Haystack, circa 1951-1987
Box 2, Folder 10	Haystack Campus and Surrounding Landscape, circa 1951-1971
Box 2, Folder 11	Haystack 25th Anniversary, circa 1975
Box 2, Folder 12	Haystack Trustees Meeting, circa 1960
Box 2, Folder 13	Workshops and Seminars at Haystack, circa 1953-1954

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## Series 5: Research Files, circa 1950-2016

### 0.3 Linear feet (Boxes 2-3)

Scope and Contents: The research files series contains clippings about Haystack and its associated artists, a list of faculty compiled by VanDerwerker, and miscellaneous exhibition and institution printed material. Also included is Jack Lenor Larsen's notes, teaching files and fiber art examples created by a student. Francis Merritt's writings, exhibition advertisements, clippings, and in memoriam materials have been kept together in this series. Also present are Janet TenBroeck's weaving notes.

Box 2, Folder 14	Clippings about and Printed Material from Haystack, circa 1951-1975
Box 2, Folder 15	Clippings and Printed Material about Haystack Artists, circa 1973-2016
Box 2, Folder 16	Compiled List of Haystack Faculty, circa 1951-1961
Box 3, Folder 1	Mary "Mimi" Bishop, circa 1956-1957
Box 3, Folder 2	Louise Allison Cort CV, circa 1981
Box 3, Folder 3	Svea Klein, circa 1957-1991
Box 3, Folder 4	Jack Larsen Notes, Teaching Files, and Fiber Art Work by a Student, circa 1954-1955
Box 3, Folder 5	Francis Merritt Clippings, Exhibitions, Writings, and In Memoriam, circa 1961-2000
Box 3, Folder 6	Francis Merritt Lecture on American Craft Culture, circa 1984
Box 3, Folder 7	Ronald Pearson, circa 1980-1988
Box 3, Folder 8	Marni Sewell, circa 1950-1951
Box 3, Folder 9	Janet TenBroeck's Weaving Notes, circa 1953-1982
Box 3, Folder 10	Exhibition, Event, and Institution Printed Material, circa 1981-1991

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