

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Despite the ongoing pandemic, the museum and the island as a whole have been very busy this summer. In 2020, the Keeper's House remained closed for the entire season as did the Rockwell Kent- James Fitzgerald House and Studio. This summer, the entire museum, including the Kent-Fitzgerald House and Studio, has been open to the public with the exception of the light tower. Masks are required in all museum buildings, and are provided if needed.

The year of limited entry to the museum inspired us to pursue other means of engaging with our members and the general public. This led to the creation of online exhibitions, virtual tours, and talks via Zoom. While these new virtual experiences were initially a response to the pandemic, the enthusiastic response led to the realization that we need to make endeavor to interact with, and be available to the public year-round despite our remote location.

In addition to increasing our virtual access, we spent this time strengthening our infrastructure. In early 2020 the museum was selected to participate in the Museum Assessment Program (MAP) administrated by the American Alliance of Museums and funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. During this year-long self-assessment a group of trustees, officers, and staff members evaluated aspects of our museum including our mission, governance, administration and finance, collections, and interpretation. Particular emphasis was given to integration of the Fitzgerald Legacy with the main campus of the museum, addressing the needs that have been created by growth within the institution, and redefining staff and governing authorities' respective roles and responsibilities.

Informed by the MAP process, our several of our standing and ad hoc committees made great progress over the last year. An Employee Handbook, Code of Ethics, Statement of Investment Beliefs, and a Restatement of the Bylaws were drafted and approved. Additionally, goals were defined for integrating the Fitzgerald Legacy addressing the topics of governance, collections, finance, buildings, and programing.

Thanks to Ed's strong leadership over the years we find ourselves in an enviable position of administrative and financial security. After this meeting, at the Trailing Yew, there will be a celebration of Ed's tremendous contributions to the museum and to the island as a whole.

### **Curatorial Activities**

Staff at the Monhegan Museum organize annual and permanent exhibits, research artists and island history, open the Kent – Fitzgerald house and studio to the public several times per week, accession gifts, facilitate framing, conservation, and gallery preparation, arrange incoming and outgoing loans, write and administer grants, coordinate volunteers, create and promote fundraising events, and make the archives available to the Monhegan community and visitors.

They work with visiting researchers and families interested in learning more about their connection to the island. They are responsible for opening and closing the museum in the spring and fall, which includes maintaining and updating exhibits, bringing the art collection to and from storage, and changing the artwork each year in order to display as much of the collection as possible, and for purposes of preservation.

Funded by an NEH CARES Act grant, the multimedia online exhibition: *World War II: On Island and Abroad* <https://monheganmuseum.org/WWII/>, was the primary focus for all museum staff for the second half of 2020; and was created with the assistance of our web designer, Kathy Allen. Upon completion of this exhibition, the museum staff applied the technical knowledge gained to create a second online exhibit- *Postwar Modernism on Monhegan* <https://monheganmuseum.org/postwarmodernism> where we explored the post-World War II revitalization of Monhegan's art colony with the arrival of a group of artists from New York who were heavily influenced by abstraction.

In late June, Dave Clough, an architectural photographer, came to the island to create Matterport 3D Virtual Tours of all of the museum buildings. These interactive tours can be viewed on our website at: <https://monheganmuseum.org/virtual-tours/>. Of particular interest are the tours of the Kent House and Fitzgerald Studio, and the light tower.

The Keeper's House and the Rockwell Kent – James Fitzgerald House and Studio opened for the season on June 24th, and the Gallery on July 1st. In the Keeper's house there is an exhibition of the Hudson family on Monhegan, with paintings by Jackie and Eric Hudson. Also in the Keeper's house, Joan Brady organized a new permanent World War II exhibit, with several portraits on loan from the Odom and Stanley families. The Fitzgerald Studio has been open 3 days each week this summer. Dan Broeckelmann hosts studio hours on Thursdays, Joan Brady on Saturdays, and Emily, Rebecca, Jenn on Tuesdays. This is the first year that museum staff have been active in studio hours and is part of our efforts to better integrate the Fitzgerald Legacy, and for our staff to become more knowledgeable about this important part of our museum. In honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death, in the Fitzgerald Studio there is an exhibition of many highlights of Fitzgerald's work from the 1920s to 1970.

### **Cape Ann and Monhegan Island Vistas: Contrasted New England Art Colonies**

This summer's annual exhibition, curated by James F. O'Gorman, groups selected pairs of paintings or prints by artists who worked at the very different Northeast art colonies of Cape Ann, Massachusetts and Monhegan. Separated by one-hundred miles of ocean, these locations became an important crossroads in the history of American art as they hosted major artists through the years. In the case of these two colonies, figures such as Theresa Bernstein, Eric Hudson, Leon Kroll, Hayley Lever, James Fitzgerald, Lester Stevens, Stow Wengenroth and

others visited, and sometimes lived, in both locations. The exhibition includes works by these and other artists from the collections of the Monhegan Museum of Art & History, the Cape Ann Museum, the Rockport Art Association, Farnsworth Art Museum, and private collections.

### **Emily Grey, Curator of Exhibitions**

This spring Emily installed the *Cape Ann and Island Vistas* exhibition in the gallery of the Assistant Keeper's House and wrote interpretive material for the display of George Bellows' "Jackie", a painting from 1914 that the Museum acquired in honor of Edward L. Deci through the generosity of Susan Bateson and Stephen S. Fuller. In concert with the unveiling of the Jackie Hudson portrait, Emily installed the show of paintings by Eric Hudson and his daughter, Jacqueline Hudson, on the second floor of the Keeper's house, along with a counter display of photos and biographical material regarding the Hudson family's history on Monhegan. Emily is currently collaborating with Dan Broeckelmann on next summer's annual art exhibition featuring the art of James Fitzgerald and is in the planning phase for a future show of paintings by Mary Butler in the Keeper's house.

### **Joan Brady, Associate Curator**

Joan Brady, a classically trained artist and educator, joined the museum staff part-time in November of last year. Prior to moving to Monhegan in 2015, she was the chair of the Art Department at St. Mary's High School in Annapolis, MD and has taught online for seven years through various organizations. Beginning last fall, Joan collaborated on the design of the NEH funded World War II virtual exhibit. This spring, she created a permanent World War II exhibit on the first floor of the Light Keeper's House. Joan maintains the museum's presence on social media by creating regular posts sharing the art and history of the island and promoting museum events and exhibitions. This summer Joan has been spending time at the Rockwell Kent – James Fitzgerald House and Studio; hosting studio hours and becoming more knowledgeable about the life and work of Rockwell Kent, Alice Stoddard, and James Fitzgerald—the artists who used these buildings.

### **Rebecca FitzPatrick Administrative Assistant**

Rebecca FitzPatrick, an artist originally from Portland, Maine, joined the museum staff part-time in February of this year. Since moving to Monhegan in 2013, she has worked part-time as the Wildlands Coordinator for the Monhegan Associates, Inc. and for eight seasons was a front desk attendant and events coordinator at the Island Inn. Early this year, Rebecca edited the NEH funded World War II digital exhibit and assisted in building that website as well as the website for the Postwar Modernism digital exhibition. In addition to attending to daily administrative tasks, Rebecca assisted in opening the Museum for the 2021 season.

### **Pamela Rollinger, Archival Associate**

Pamela continues to work in the winter months accessioning gifts to the museum. During the winter of 2020-2021 she worked to develop the narrative of the *World War II: On Island and Abroad* virtual exhibition.

### **Laurie Day, Museum Store Manager**

After several years working as a clerk in the Museum Store, Laurie has taken over the management of the retail space and staff. This includes researching and ordering merchandise, maintaining records, managing online sales, and creating the staff schedule. In 2020 she freshened up the store space with a new coat of paint and designed purpose-built shelving which was built by Monhegan Restorations over the winter. The changes have created a more user-friendly space with increased air circulation and improved traffic flow.

### **Tara Hire**

After over 7 years with the museum, in the fall of 2020 Tara decided to focus on her studies. She has since completed her program and accepted a job working remotely for LL Bean. We miss her cheerful presence and wish her well on her new adventure!

### **Additional Staff**

Cynthia Jensen has taken on the role of Membership Coordinator and also works two days a week in the Museum Store.

Marian Chioffi is handling the bookkeeping responsibilities.

Anna Smith worked in the pop-up store in the front porch of the gallery and greeted visitors to the museum during the fall of 2020.

### **Community Outreach and Involvement**

Since August 2020 the Museum has hosted a number of events. These have included:

A Beachcomber's Botany- In partnership with the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens a full group of 16 people came to the island to spend a day exploring and learning about the wild flowering plants of Monhegan's rocky beaches and headlands. CMBG's Research Botanist, Melissa Cullina, pointed out various plants, describing the identifying features, traits, and life cycles of flora in the Lobster Cove area. In the afternoon, we hosted a private viewing of Geraldine Tam's botanical illustrations of the flora identified earlier in the day. We hope to continue this partnership with the Botanical Gardens and have been working with them to identify Tam's botanical specimens, and hope to create a travelling exhibition of her work in the future.

Jocelyn Mackenzie- The first Lighthouse Hill evening concert was well attended with over 60 people climbing the hill to listen to music and enjoy the sunset.

### **Zoom talks –**

Bellows and Monhegan: Celebrating a Landmark Acquisition- A virtual panel discussion with Ed Deci, Will Coleman, Susan Bateson and Steve Fuller about George Bellows' 1914 portrait of Jackie Hudson and the history behind the painting. 113 virtual attendees and 206 views of the video at: <https://monheganmuseum.org/virtual-events/> .

Pathless Woods and Lonely Shores: The Monhegan Art and Photography of S.P. Rolt Triscott- an illustrated lecture by Maine State Historian, Earle G. Shettleworth. 116 virtual attendees and 137 views of the video at: <https://monheganmuseum.org/virtual-events/> .

At Home and Abroad: the Maine National Guard in World War 2, 1941-1945- a virtual talk by Captain Jonathan Bratten of the Maine National Guard. 28 virtual attendees and 14 views of the video at: <https://monheganmuseum.org/virtual-events/> .

Virtual Trivia- In February we hosted a virtual trivia night with questions about island history, flora and fauna, art, Monhegan people, trails, and image and video identification. There were over 58 participants, and it was a wonderful way to reconnect with all of our island friends in the middle of winter.

Community Art Project- On August 15, 2021 we began a community art project at the museum which involves having members of the community draw a portion of a painting (in this case, Mary Mason's *Sidney's Garden*) on an index card. Each participant draws a different section. When all of the pieces are complete the cards are assembled to recreate the original work. Over 40 of the 72 sections of this work have been completed so stay tuned to see the finished product!

### **Thank you to the following individuals who volunteered their time over the past year:**

A huge thank you to Dan Broeckelmann. Dan has volunteered his time at the Fitzgerald Studio since it opened to the public as part of the Monhegan Museum in 2005, but has recently taken on a larger role as we prepare for an exhibition in Monterey over the winter, and on Monhegan next summer.

To Susan Danly for her work curating the James Fitzgerald show in Monterey.

To Eileen Cameron for helping to put the Museum Store back together this spring.

Guy Stever for polishing brass.

To Francisco Ferrer and James Carney for help trucking museum items, and to Christian Dederer and Marian Chioffi for help organizing museum events.

For their help with the opening reception –Judy Grey, Fred Grey, Eileen Cameron, Laurie Day, and Victoria Cameron

To Mandy and Dylan Metrano of La Nef Chocolate for donating a portion of the proceeds from their museum bars.

### **For lending works to the exhibition**

Rockport Art Association & Museum, Farnsworth Art Museum, The Old Print Shop, Marlene Arvan and Frank Stettner, Marta Colao, Ray Decker, Alan Freedman, Stephen S. Fuller and Susan D. Bateson, Greenhut Galleries, Janet and William Ellery James, Christine Mosher, Dale Ratcliff Movalli, Carol and Robert Stahl, Nancy Strisik, the family of Don Stone and anonymous lenders.

Thank you to Ben Odom and family, and Gretel and Sherman Stanley for lending portraits of World War II veterans by Alice Kent Stoddard.

### **2020-2021**

#### **Accessions**

Articles, catalogs, and other paper objects, genealogical information and ephemera from: Ann Wilson Tarbox, Cindy King, Chris Smith, Dede Gummere, Prudence Burkhart, William Brown, Tara Hire, Jenn Pye, Margot Sullivan, Naomi Freireich, Earl G. Shettleworth Jr., Alan Freedman, Frances Hynes, Lexi Krause, and Guy Stever.

Objects from: Jenn Pye, Sally Andrews, Chris Smith, Lexi Krause

Oral Histories from: Anne Ault, Ann Tally, Adam Kernan Schloss

Books from: Will Coleman, Chris Smith, Earl G. Shettleworth Jr.

Photographs, video, and audio recordings from: Hugh MacLeod, Marie Berry, Cindy King, Prudence Burkhart, Peter Rosenthal, Naomi Freireich, Elenor Bowdon, Elizabeth Keller, and Marie Snavelly.

Artworks:

- Hibbard, Aldro T.: *Crashing Waves*, oil on canvas, Gift of Susan Bateson and Stephen S. Fuller.
- Johnson, Marshall; *Rocky Coast*, oil on linen, anonymous gift.
- Schmidt, Karl; *Untitled*, anonymous gift.
- Seelbach, Anne; 21 portraits on paper of Monhegan people from the summer of 1995. Gift of Anne Elizabeth Seelbach

### **Vital Statistics 2020-2021**

As 2020 was an anomalous year, the 2019 year-to-date of July 31 (YTD) will be contrasted with the 2021 YTD season. In 2019 the number of people who visited the museum from June 24-July 31 was 1,626 for a total admission income of \$13,216. In 2021, the total number of admissions as of July 31 is 1615 and \$13,408 in admissions income. This represents a decrease of 11 people and an increase of \$192 in income from 2019. Store merchandise includes, apparel, note cards & posters, catalogues, and other items. Merchandise sold at the Museum provided an additional \$8,524 YTD in 2019, in 2021 this figure is \$9,223 which is an increase of \$699. Total YTD admission and merchandise income in 2019 was \$21,740 compared to \$22,631 in 2021. The number of visitors does not include those who attended open hours at the Fitzgerald Studio (estimated 200-250) These numbers will be carefully documented beginning in 2022.

Overall, admission fees and merchandise income are very close to, or slightly above pre-pandemic levels.

In the entire 2020 season there were 1071 visitors to the museum. The admission income was \$3,723, and sales of store merchandise \$7,930 for a store income of \$11,653.

### **Volunteers**

Alexandra Allen	Dave Clapp	Carol Gold
Susan Anderson	Sue Cohn	Paul Goldsmith
Sue Avery	Susan Coleman	Fred Grey
Henry Barkhausen	Robert Day	Judy Grey
Lele Barkhausen	Susan Daly	Peter Hayward
Cindy Barnes	Clare Durst	Janet Henry
Susan Bateson	Ellen Faller	Annie Hidell
Bob Bourgeois	Lynn Feasley	Bill Hidell
Eileen Cameron	Susan Finkin	Tom Hunt
Victoria Cameron	Jim Galvin	Candis Kerns
Corlis Carroll	Phil Getty	Lexi Krause

Louise Krause  
Laura Ligouri  
Jack Matson  
Janice Miller  
Katie Miller  
Tish Miller  
Vernon Moore  
Emily Morse  
Nadia Mykolayevych  
Nan Nelson  
Kirke Olson  
Peter Pearce  
Carol Poitras  
Cathy Prichard  
Daphne Pulsifer  
Linda Rae  
Doris Rice  
Carol Gilberty Rimondi  
Ike Rosen  
Florence Rosenblum  
George Saunderson  
Jean Smith  
Penny Smith  
H. Guyford Stever, Jr.  
Margot Sullivan  
Ellen Van Wees  
Margot Walker