

## **Fitzgerald Legacy Report**

August 19, 2021

### **Retirement of Bob Stahl**

A major change for the Fitzgerald Legacy this year is the retirement of Bob Stahl as Co –Director of the Museum and Director of the Fitzgerald Legacy. Earlier this month the Portland Press Herald published an excellent article, written by Bob Keyes, recounting Bob’s many contributions to the Monhegan Museum during his tenure.

Included is a press release pertaining to Bob Stahl’s contributions to the Museum.

**Catalogue Raisonné** – Bob Stahl continues his work on the second volume of Fitzgerald’s work, *James Fitzgerald: The Watercolors—Selections from the Catalogue Raisonné* focuses on the watercolors. Contributors include Robert L. Stahl, Susan Strickler, and Judith Walsh.

**Integration** – The Fitzgerald Legacy has been working with the Museum to become more fully integrated into the operations of the Museum. This has been in the planning for several years and was an important part of our participation in the Museum Assessment Program (MAP) undertaken last year. The finances and accounts of the Fitzgerald Legacy will be overseen by the Museum’s Treasurer and the Executive Committee. The Fitzgerald Legacy collection will be managed as part of Monhegan Museum’s comprehensive collections policy. We will continue to look for advice and support from the Fitzgerald Legacy committee and will engage support from our Friends of Fitzgerald group through our annual newsletter.

**Virtual tours** – We are now offering virtual tours of the House and Studio. In the future we will be upgrading and improving the tours with individual links to paintings and objects.

**Upcoming shows** – We have two important exhibitions currently being planned for 2022.

### **Monterey Museum of Art - Monterey, CA** (January 13 – April 23, 2022)

Bob Stahl and Susan Danly had been working with the Monterey Museum over the past two years, but progress was delayed due to Covid and the departure of the former Director of the Monterey Museum. Jenn, Susan Danly, and I are now currently working with the new Director, Corey Madden, and curatorial staff. The exhibition will be a large show of approximately 50 works focusing on James Fitzgerald’s career in Monterey from 1928 until 1942. This exhibit will highlight Fitzgerald’s connection to the artistic and intellectual influences developing during this period on the Monterey peninsula.

### **Monhegan Museum of Art and History - Monhegan, ME** (July 1 – Sept 30, 2022)

Emily Grey, Jenn, and I are planning an exhibition in the Assistant Keeper’s Gallery to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of James Fitzgerald’s passing in 1971. This show was originally planned for 2021, but was delayed due to Covid and the closing of the museum in 2020.

This exhibition will be a retrospective of Fitzgerald’s career, with many of his most important paintings, drawn primarily from the Museum’s extensive collection. We plan to show a variety of mediums, sketches, and styles throughout to learn more about his development as an artist and his complete dedication to his artistic process.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dan Broeckelmann

The Monhegan Museum of Art and History announces the retirement of Dr. Robert Stahl as the Co-Director of the Museum, and Director of the James Fitzgerald Legacy.

Bob has made many significant contributions to the Museum over the years. During his tenure Bob has served as Museum Treasurer, Assistant Director, Co-Director, as well as Director of the James Fitzgerald Legacy.

In 2004 Bob took on the role of Director of the Fitzgerald Legacy when the Monhegan Museum received the extensive estate of James Fitzgerald, including his house and studio on Monhegan Island (both built by Rockwell Kent), and his complete body of artwork.

In that role Bob worked tirelessly to preserve, protect, and promote the legacy of James Fitzgerald through extensive research, building relationships, managing the Friends of James Fitzgerald database, and many other aspects of the estate. He also created a Fitzgerald Catalogue Raisonne with over 2200 images documenting James Fitzgerald's sketches and paintings. Bob is the author of an authoritative series on the work of James Fitzgerald based on the Catalogue Raisonne. Vol 1: 'Sketches and Drawings' was published in 2017. Vol 2: 'Watercolors' is coming later this year.

In 2018 Bob was successful in having the Rockwell Kent House and the James Fitzgerald Studio accepted into the Historic Artist's Homes and Studios program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

In addition to his work with the Fitzgerald Legacy, Bob's many accomplishments also include managing the restoration of the Museum's 1824 Lighthouse Tower in 2009. In recognition of this the Museum received the 2010 Maine Historic Preservation Award.

Bob's contributions have been very important during a period of tremendous growth and development of the Monhegan Museum of Art and History. We deeply appreciate Bob's commitment and dedication throughout these years.