



Monhegan Museum of Art & History

1 Lighthouse Hill
Monhegan, ME 04852
www.monheganmuseum.org

March 2025

Dear Friends,

A wonderful symbiosis is taking place at the Monhegan Museum this summer.

What do we mean by 'symbiosis'? When most of us use the term, we are referring to the type that scientists call mutualism—where both parties in a relationship benefit. One common example is pollination, in which insects and plants profit from one another. Another case in point provides the subject matter for this year's exhibition at the Museum – ***The Monhegan Wildlands: Art, Ecology, and the Resilience of a Maine Island***. This show revolves around a form of mutual benefit wherein the humans who inhabit Monhegan, whether temporarily or permanently, choose to protect and ensure the survival of the island's Wildlands. In return, these Wildlands nourish, support, and enrich the humans who care for them.

The exhibit is the result of a mutually beneficial collaboration between the Monhegan Museum and the Bowdoin College Museum of Art. It was co-curated by Jennifer Pye, Monhegan Museum Director; Frank H. Goodyear III, Co-Director of the Bowdoin College Museum of Art; and Barry A. Logan, Samuel S. Butcher Professor in the Natural Sciences at Bowdoin College. In a symbiosis of art and science, this exhibition explores the ecological history of the island as revealed by the rich history of artworks representing its landscapes. The resulting presentation is artistically exceptional and also provides a fascinating meditation on how our Wildlands and their use have impacted Monhegan Island as a whole.

Art, Ecology, and the Resilience of a Maine Island has been on display this winter at the Bowdoin College Museum of Art, and in late June will make its way to Monhegan. If you have already visited the show in Brunswick, you were surely impressed by its scope and impact. If you view it on Monhegan, you may be doubly so. You will not only encounter some differences in the array of artworks, but you will also experience the exhibit on the island where the works themselves were created.

You can walk out and discover the actual landscapes with your own eyes. You can ponder, *in situ*, how these scenes have changed over time and what they might say about the resilience of this place and its people.

You can also take advantage of yet another collaboration, this time between the Museum and Monhegan Associates. On Thursdays this summer, these organizations, in partnership, will offer a series of lectures and programs deepening our understanding of the island's cultural, ecological, and artistic history. Pretty much everyone benefits, wouldn't you agree? We're certain you will find the accompanying catalog equally thought-provoking and even breathtaking.

Some may view Monhegan as an offshore outpost inhabited, from necessity, by self-reliant and rugged individuals. So how do all these strong-minded people manage to come together? The answer is simple. **Rugged though the island may be, one of its most enduring – and endearing – characteristics is its community, whose strength, vibrancy, and sustainability stem, at least in part, from their relationships with one another and with the Wildlands.**

We invite you to strengthen your connection to that community not only by enjoying what we have to offer at the Monhegan Museum of Art & History, but also by becoming a member today. And if you're already a member, we hope you'll consider renewing at a higher level than before. Clearly the Museum will benefit from your generosity. We're convinced that you will, too.

Symbiosis at its finest.



Jenn Pye, Director

With the Membership Committee: Susan Bateson, Chair; Henry Barkhausen, Laura Desmond, Jan Kornbluth, Laura Ligouri, and Mandy Metrano

P.S. You can become a member or renew your membership using the enclosed envelope, or by visiting www.monheganmuseum.org



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HERE