



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



Join or Renew
HERE



Monhegan
Museum of
Art & History

SAVE THE DATES! 2025 EVENTS SCHEDULE

stay tuned — more events will be added!

Tuesday March 25
6:00 – 7:00pm

5th Annual MONHEGAN MUSEUM VIRTUAL TRIVIA

with host Billy Boynton

Registration required: monheganmuseum.org/virtual-events/



THE MONHEGAN WILDLANDS: Art, Ecology, and the Resilience of a Maine Island

OPENING RECEPTION: SUNDAY, JULY 6, 4-6 pm

SUMMER LECTURE SERIES

in partnership with Monhegan Associates
generously sponsored by the Monhegan House

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| Thurs, July 10 | TBD |
| Thurs, July 17 | Nature Journaling Workshop with Karen O. Zimmermann, Maine Master Naturalist, Registered Maine Guide |
| Thurs, July 24 | “Small Island, Big Questions: Monhegan, Conservation, and the Entanglements of History”
Matt Klinge, Bowdoin College |
| Thurs, July 31 | “The Monhegan Wildlands: Artists, Ecologists & the Resilience of a Maine Island”
Frank Goodyear, Bowdoin College Museum of Art, Barry Logan, Bowdoin College, & Jenn Pye, Monhegan Museum |
| Thurs, August 7 | “Mapping Monhegan”
Libby Bischof, Osher Map Library, University of Southern Maine |
| Thurs, August 14 | Annual Edward L. Deci Endowed Lecture
Alan Braddock, College of William and Mary |



Tuesday, August 5

Museum Party Day!

Saturday, September 14

Maine Open Lighthouse Day

PLUS:

Exhibit Themed Nature Walks

Weekly “Closer Looks” Gallery Talks

Weekly Programs at the Kent/Stoddard/Fitzgerald Studio





Monhegan
Museum of
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2024 Snapshot

FROM THE DIRECTOR

As I share this brief review of 2024, I want to recognize with deep appreciation the hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm of our community, staff, members, donors, volunteers, and visitors. **YOU** are the reason for what we do, and you make it all possible. We are proud to share our united efforts, accomplishments, and aspirations in this overview, and we thank you for your continued support in preserving and sharing the stories and creativity that make Monhegan so special.

EXHIBITS

A Common Bond: Women Artists of Monhegan Island, curated by Emily Grey, presented work by 16 members of Women Artists of Monhegan Island (WAMI), an artist collective that played a significant role in the artistic life of the island for nearly 30 years.

A Steady Light: 200 Years of Monhegan Light Station celebrated the bicentennial of Monhegan Light with an exhibit of 19 lighthouse-related works, plus a look at Dan & Marie Stevens, lighthouse keepers, art collectors, friends and subjects of Monhegan's early art colony.

Celestial Sightings: The Sun, the Moon, and the Stars, curated by Susan Danly, featured 15 James Fitzgerald works that include heavenly bodies.

COMMUNITY

PROGRAMS Film screenings, gallery talks, panel discussions, receptions, community art projects, and school tours were among the robust offerings of in-person, hybrid, and virtual events in 2024, giving island residents, visitors, and online participants a chance to come together for learning, meaningful conversations, and fun.

VISITATION This year we welcomed over 5,500 visitors to explore our exhibitions, our historic lighthouse campus, and the Kent/Stoddard/Fitzgerald Historic Home & Studio. An additional 10,500 virtual visitors from around the world participated in programs and explored our collections and exhibitions online.



VOLUNTEERS Special thanks to our more than 100 dedicated volunteers, who contributed over 1,000 hours of service.

COLLECTIONS

The Museum added 20 works of art to its collections in 2024, in addition to over 230 photographs, objects, documents, books, recordings, genealogical information, and ephemera from 20 donors. 25 items were loaned to other institutions for exhibitions, and 3 objects received conservation treatment. Museum staff assisted 10 other institutions and numerous private researchers in using Museum collections for their work.



GOVERNANCE

Our 2024-2026 Strategic Plan calls on us to strengthen our infrastructure, further professionalize Museum operations, build organizational capacity, and expand our programming and outreach. To these ends in 2024 our highly-committed Board of Trustees adopted new Mission, Vision, and Community statements and a new Collections Policy; established a new position of Assistant Curator and hired Laura Desmond in that role; and purchased the Sally Elfant Cottage, which after renovation will provide year-round employee housing, contributing to the sustainability of the Museum and the Monhegan community.

FINANCES

Thanks to careful management, the Museum remains in a strong financial position, with an annual budget in excess of \$500,000. More than 70% of annual expenses go to staff, and island-based services, businesses, and individuals.

Funding Sources

