

February 2020

Dear Friends of Fitzgerald,

It's been another busy year for the Fitzgerald Legacy, and although 2019 has managed to escape us, hopefully this annual letter will bring to you some important and exciting updates.

Last summer, Dan Broeckelmann, Jennifer Marr, and I held Fitzgerald studio hours on Monhegan. The theme was work not recently seen by the general public and included watercolors and oils from California, Monhegan, New York City, and a few oil paintings dating to his student days from Ogunquit, Massachusetts, and his travels to the Caribbean. Most exciting was the display of a 1933 watercolor, *Pegs in the Studio*, in which he captures his bride inside their Monterey home/studio. The artist brought the watercolor to Monhegan when he moved East in 1943. In the 1980s, it moved back to Fitzgerald's Monterey studio, only to return to Monhegan in 2019 as a gift to the Legacy thanks to the generosity of a dedicated donor.

In October, Susan Danly and I visited the Monterey Museum of Art, CA, where we met with their director and confirmed plans for a show of Fitzgerald's California work to be mounted in the fall of 2021. Fitzgerald's Monterey sojourn, from 1929 until 1943, was an extremely productive period and this will be a large retrospective to include about fifty works created in those years, from both public and private collections. We are most grateful to the Monterey Museum of Art for this outstanding opportunity.

The 2021 season will be the 50th anniversary of the artist's death and the birth of the Fitzgerald Legacy, and on a similar note, the Monhegan Museum of Art & History's annual 2021 exhibition will feature the artist's Monhegan work. This will be the museum's first solo exhibition of his work since the 2001 show of the oil paintings. It will be quite an exciting year, with exhibitions on both coasts, and we hope that many of you will be able to attend these events. More details to follow.

I am pleased to announce that Susan Strickler, who retired after two decades as director of the Currier Museum in Manchester, NH (and who curated with the Monhegan Museum last summer's exhibition on Maud Briggs Knowlton) has joined our group. With her expertise in watercolors, she brings to us added depth, as she focuses her research on Fitzgerald's New England work.

As 2020 gets underway, the Legacy group continues to make plans for volume two of *Selections from the Catalogue Raisonné*. Volume one presented drawings and sketches in progression to completed works (copies of volume one can be ordered via our online store). Volume two will present the large body of works, primarily watercolors, for which no sketches have survived. This will include many works from California, Monhegan, Vermont, and elsewhere, and will be a collaborative effort by Susan Danly, Susan Strickler, myself, and others.

Last summer an e-newsletter was initiated which we hope to continue as a regular early summer season communication to relay information about the annual studio exhibition on Monhegan and any other developments. If you have not yet done so, please share with us your preferred email contact. You can do so either by way of the enclosed envelope or by sending an email to: JamesFitzgeraldLegacy@gmail.com. We do not share this with anyone, so please take a moment to update with us your preferred contact information.

Over the past year, over 100 additional entries have been made to our online catalogue raisonné at JamesFitzgerald.org. Paintings are added as soon as possible once high resolution digital imaging has been completed. Many thanks to those of you who have allowed us to photograph your Fitzgerald works. If you have not yet done so, please be in touch.

On a personal note, Carol and I have moved to Portland, ME which will keep us closer to Monhegan. After 27 years in our Atlanta home, the move was an all consuming process and has been largely responsible for the delay in the annual letter. Thank you for your patience! The enclosed return envelope reflects our new address.

I hope all these updates are as exciting to you and they are to share. Your generosity over the years has allowed us to make these plans as we continue to promote the art of James Fitzgerald. We are most thankful for your ongoing support. With very best wishes for 2020 from all of us,

Robert L. Stahl, director, for the James Fitzgerald Legacy
Dan Broeckelmann, Susan Danly, Ed Deci, Jennifer Marr,
Carol Stahl, and Susan Strickler

Please visit us: JamesFitzgerald.org