



November 25, 2022

Dear Friends of the James Fitzgerald Legacy,

It has been a big and busy year for Fitzgerald! The Legacy curated two major exhibitions— one on the East Coast, and one on the West Coast. We published Volume 2 of the Fitzgerald Catalogue Raisonné by Bob Stahl, received several important gifts of art, and completed some significant maintenance on the Kent/Fitzgerald Home & Studio.

Here are more details about what we have been up to since I last wrote:

Monterey Museum of Art – *Seeking Eden, James Fitzgerald in Monterey* (Jan 10 – April 24)

Curated by Susan Danly, this exhibition showcased work from the years that Fitzgerald made the Monterey Bay area his home, 1928-1943. Jenn, Susan, myself, and several members of our board of trustees were able to attend the exhibition and various programs. The events were very popular, and the exhibition received enthusiastic support. This was a great opportunity to reintroduce James Fitzgerald to the Monterey area in his first solo exhibition at the Monterey Museum of Art since 1979. In celebration of the collaboration between our museums, two California watercolors from the Legacy collection— *Stairs to House*, depicting Robert Louis Stevenson’s House in Monterey, and *Highway 1 at Big Sur* were gifted to the Monterey Museum at the close of the exhibition.

Monhegan Museum – *The Odyssey of James Fitzgerald* (July 1 – Sept 31)

This exhibition was a retrospective of James Fitzgerald’s body of work and an exploration of his deep commitment to the process of creating his art. The exhibition was curated by Emily Grey and me. Emily contributed engaging and informative displays of books from Fitzgerald’s library, as well as his preferred artist materials, and wall texts that supported the vision of the exhibition and allowed for a more personal connection between the artist and the viewer.

These exhibitions gave Fitzgerald a great deal of important exposure and both received very favorable critical reviews. These were the first major exhibitions of James Fitzgerald’s work since the large exhibition at the Portland Museum of Art in 1992, and a show of his oils at the Monhegan Museum in 2001.

At the Kent/Fitzgerald Studio, our show complemented the ‘Odyssey’ exhibition with a retrospective including large drawings and unique paintings that are seldom shown. We opened the Kent/Fitzgerald Home & Studio 3 days/week and continue to see increased interest in both properties, especially the tours of the Kent/Fitzgerald Home. Our 2023 Studio exhibition will focus on portraits, including the Aran Rower series which places portraiture within a larger context.

The Watercolors, Volume 2 of the James Fitzgerald Catalogue Raisonné by Robert L. Stahl was published this summer. It builds upon the foundation established in Volume 1, *The Drawings and Sketches*, which is a wonderful introduction into the life and work of James Fitzgerald. Each volume has over 300 pages and hundreds of beautifully reproduced sketches and final images. Both are now available through the Monhegan Museum website. The books are \$70 each. We are offering a package of both volumes and the documentary, *The Journey of James Fitzgerald*, for \$120. This series is the definitive resource on the life and work of James Fitzgerald. ***They would make unique holiday gifts, and are a great way to support the Fitzgerald Legacy!***

Thank you to all our donors, supporters, volunteers, and staff, whose efforts continue to elevate the legacy of James Fitzgerald and help us manage our important Rockwell Kent/James Fitzgerald buildings.



Dan Broeckelmann, Chair, Fitzgerald Legacy Committee

Other 2022 Events of Interest to Friends of the Legacy

Ed Deci Lecture Series: Our first lecture in the series was a talk by Calvin Hennig, who authored the first Fitzgerald biography in 1984. Calvin spoke of working with Anne and Ed Hubert and offered insight regarding Fitzgerald's exploration and integration of Eastern philosophy into his life and artistic process.

Catalogue Raisonné Volume 2: The Watercolors: In honor of the release of his new book Bob Stahl gave a talk about the life and art of James Fitzgerald

**Recordings of each of these talks can be accessed through the museum website. You can also take a virtual tour of the 'Odyssey' and Studio exhibitions on the museum website:
www.monheganmuseum.org**

Acquisitions

We acquired *Irish Coast*, a large and important oil painted in 1966.

The family of Joan Fitzgerald McArdle (Fitzgerald's niece) donated three early oil seascapes that were painted before he moved to Monterey in 1928.

Barbara (Fitzgerald's niece) and Russ Broeckelmann donated two large, early watercolors of Barbados painted about 1927.

Four Years Old, a 1924 portrait of Elsie Jean Brackett was donated by June Elderkin.

Burial, Monhegan, a significant watercolor was acquired by Stephen Fuller and Susan Bateson and is a promised gift to the Monhegan Museum.