



December 2023

Dear Friends of Fitzgerald,

Greetings from the new chair of the Fitzgerald Legacy committee. An American art historian and curator for over thirty years, during the past decade I have worked on the Fitzgerald collection with both Robert L. Stahl and Daniel J. Broeckelmann. I look forward to focusing in more detail on all of the important aspects of the Legacy's purpose – to preserve, protect, and promote the artistry of James Fitzgerald. My grateful thanks to Dan for his leadership as interim chair of the Fitzgerald Legacy Committee for the past few years. During his tenure, solo exhibitions of Fitzgerald's work have been mounted at the Monterey Museum of Art and at the Monhegan Museum of Art & History. Dan has been involved with the estate James Fitzgerald for almost thirty years, and will continue to serve on the Fitzgerald Legacy Committee of the Monhegan Museum.

This past year has brought a great deal of public attention to the Kent/Fitzgerald buildings. The studio saw over three hundred summer visitors and we had a standing room only audience for the July 2023 conversation held at the Monhegan Schoolhouse led by Wanda M. Corn. A noted American art historian, Professor Corn is the chair of the Advisory Committee of Historic Artists' Homes and Studios program, part of the National Trust for Historic Preservation; and on the board of the Wyeth Foundation for American Art. Sponsored by the Monhegan Museum and hosted by board member Will Coleman, their lively dialogue about preservation is currently posted on the museum's website. The presentation singled out the efforts of the Fitzgerald Legacy in making both its buildings and collections accessible to the general public.

Interest in the Kent/Fitzgerald properties has grown exponentially in recent years with the Rizzoli/Electra publication, *At First Light, Two Centuries of Maine Artists, Their Homes and Studios*, which included photographs and commentary on the Kent/Fitzgerald property. In addition, this year the Fitzgerald studio featured *Capturing the Essence: Friends, Figures, and Animals*, an installation of portraits in watercolor, oil, and monochrome drawn from the Legacy's collection.

The Monhegan Museum continues to prioritize its stewardship of the Fitzgerald Legacy as an integral part of our recent five-year strategic planning process, we will update you on our future exhibitions, publications, and collection management progress. To further this effort, I am especially pleased to report that the Legacy has a new assistant, Kristen Lindquist, who manages the Thursday and Sunday studio openings and tours of the Kent/Fitzgerald house during the summer, and maintains the Legacy database of his catalogue raisonné. In 2024, Kristen will be on hand to present the summer exhibition at the studio which will be devoted to Fitzgerald's nocturns. We hope that you can come to the island and enjoy this show in person; or that you will visit us online at www.monheganmuseum.org and www.jamesfitzgerald.org.

Thank you for your generous support which allows us to continue this important work.

With best regards for the coming year,



Susan Danly, Chair
James Fitzgerald Legacy
Monhegan Museum of Art & History