



November 28, 2024

Dear Friend of the Fitzgerald Legacy,

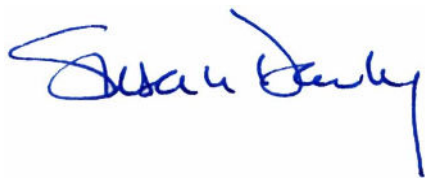
In celebration of the amazing eclipse that Maine experienced this past April, the Fitzgerald Studio this summer featured a special exhibition dedicated to a subject dear to the artist's heart—*Celestial Sightings: The Sun, the Moon, and the Stars*. Throughout his career, Fitzgerald was fascinated by objects in the sky. Early works featured celestial navigation at sea; his California work conveyed the magical effect of moonlight and highlighted the introduction of Chinese black ink in his watercolors; and later in his career, Fitzgerald experimented with the use of gold and silver gilt to liven scenes of swirling gulls above the Monhegan harbor, with the sun and the moon in the sky above reflected in the shimmering waters below.

The Museum opened the Studio this past June with a wine and cheese reception for islanders and early summer visitors alike, attended by 46 people. Over the course of the summer, attendance grew steadily with 646 visitors to the studio and 78 to his home next door. Kristen Lindquist, Fitzgerald Studio Guide, provided tours of each building, introducing many first-time visitors to our unique collection of Fitzgerald's watercolors and oils. This coming winter, she will be working on next summer's exhibition focusing on the artist's depictions of animals, both wild and domesticated. From plow horses at Mt. Katahdin to herds of palominos in California, tigers in the Central Park Zoo in New York to backyard chickens in rural Ireland, Fitzgerald included animated and sometimes humorous scenes in his wide-ranging bestiary.

This past year, members of the Fitzgerald Legacy Committee, Calvin Hennig, the artist's biographer, and Frederick Lewis, a noted documentary film maker, met with me to discuss the collection's future needs, educational programming, and outreach projects. This last summer, Professor Lewis, who teaches film at Ohio University, showed his Fitzgerald documentary at the Monhegan Schoolhouse and took questions from the audience about its making. Their valuable advice, along with Committee member Dan Broeckelmann's long experience with the Fitzgerald Studio, continue to inform our approach to promoting the artist's achievements beyond the shores of Monhegan. In addition, Dan and his wife, Krista Lisajus, recently donated a dramatic graphite on paper sketch, *Storm Clouds over Katahdin*, to the collection.

I hope that you, too, will contribute to the Legacy's efforts to preserve the Fitzgerald collection and highlight his important place in the history of American art. With its growing connections, the Monhegan Museum of Art & History is in a unique position to make Fitzgerald's work more widely known throughout the state and across the nation. Your support makes possible our continued exhibitions in his studio and home, as well as off-island outreach.

Best wishes for the coming year and for a trip to Monhegan to see his work first hand,



Susan Danly

Monhegan Museum of Art & History Officer, Collections Committee, and  
Fitzgerald Legacy Chair

P.S. Prefer to give online? Visit <https://jamesfitzgerald.org/support/> to make your contribution.