

## Clark Fitz-Gerald *Castine's Celebrated Sculptor-in-Residence*



*"And look at Clark, who seems to be one person with arms and legs, but there are astral presences all around him, frogs and eagles and milkweed pods and sublimated onion rings and carved women without any clothes on."*

— Jane Langton, letter to Fitz-Gerald, July 22, 1996

by Carl Little, *Guest Curator*

In the landmark survey *Maine and Its Role in American Art, 1740-1963*, Clark Fitz-Gerald's name, sans hyphen, appears on the very last page. In his round-up essay, "The Diversity of Our Time, 1940-1963," James Carpenter, art historian and then chairman of Colby College's art department, mentioned the sculptor's commissions for churches and schools, taking special notice of the "flexibility and lightness of effect" found in his welded works "in which figure and symbols can be used with richness of form and of meaning."

The placement makes sense: Fitz-Gerald had arrived in Castine in 1956, only seven years before the book was published. That he had already made a name for himself in the annals of Maine art was a tribute to his brilliant and wide-ranging work. In the years to follow, he would establish himself as one of the state's, and the country's, preeminent sculptors.

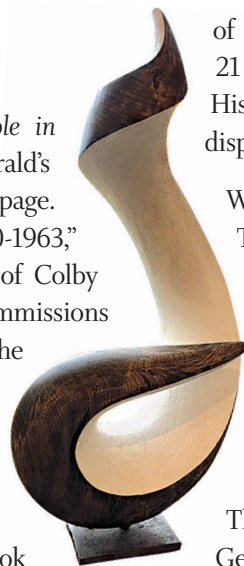
The Castine Historical Society's *Clark Fitz-Gerald: Castine's Celebrated Sculptor-in-Residence* is the first significant survey

of the sculptor's work in nearly 20 years. Drawing from 21 private collections, many in Castine, as well as the Historical Society's Fitz-Gerald archives, the exhibition displays the remarkable range of his creativity.

Walking through the show offers surprises at every turn. There is a trumpeting prophet, a handsome ballot box, an Egyptian queen, winged Daedalus, a fire-breathing preacher, a gnarly warthog, an erupting milkweed pod, and a sinuous knot. Whether these sculptures represent "astral presences," as his friend Jane Langton called them, Fitz-Gerald brought imagination and ingenuity to all his work.

The exhibition also highlights the artist's process. Fitz-Gerald was comfortable working in a range of materials and with an array of tools. And his inspiration came from many sources: nature, Bible stories, the human figure—even Funyuns, the onion ring snack.

Of special interest are the "jibbies," small objects collected on walks around Castine that Fitz-Gerald would affix to small



*Twist, c.1970s*  
Collection of Philip Freedman

# 2022 Calendar of Events

Bearing in mind that COVID is still with us, please be sure to check the website at [castinehistoricalsociety.org](http://castinehistoricalsociety.org) or call us for last minute change of plans.

Unless noted, all events are free.

## June 6–October 10

### "Clark Fitz-Gerald: Castine's Celebrated Sculptor-in-Residence"

An exhibition featuring sculptures, drawings, photographs, and writings by Castine's Clark Fitz-Gerald (1917-2004).

## June 17–October 10

### Castine Uncovered Walking Tours

Friday, Saturday, & Monday 10:00 a.m.  
An hour-long tour of historic Castine.

## Thursday, June 23

### "Clark Fitz-Gerald: Aspects of my Father's Life"

5:30 p.m. / An illustrated talk on the life and work of sculptor Clark Fitz-Gerald by his son, Stephen. Emerson Hall, Castine.

## Saturday, June 25

### 2022 Season Open House

4:00-6:00 p.m. / Join us for a reception and viewing of our new exhibits. Refreshments served.

## Thursday, June 30

### Jewelry Valuation Day Fundraiser

10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. / Sacha Grippando, Bellwether Advisory & Appraisals, will provide preliminary valuations of your antique, vintage, or contemporary jewelry. \$15 per pre-booked appointment. Call 326-4118 to schedule.

## Thursday, June 30

### "Wearable Art - Studio Jewelry from the 1940-80s"

7:00 p.m. / Sacha Grippando will give an illustrated talk on mid-20th century jewelry design. CHS Mitchell Room.

## Friday, July 22

### Castine House & Garden Tour

10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. / Tour nine beautiful homes and six gracious gardens. Tour

tickets \$45 through July 10, and \$50 July 11-22. Sponsored by Bangor Savings Bank and Saltmeadow Properties. Media sponsor *DownEast/Maine Homes* magazines. Purchase tickets and learn more at [castinehousetour.org](http://castinehousetour.org).

## Thursday, August 4

### The 13th Annual Deborah Pulliam Memorial Lecture, "Clark Fitz-Gerald: Castine's Celebrated Sculptor-in-Residence"

7:00 p.m. / Guest Curator, Carl Little, will deliver an illustrated lecture on Clark Fitz-Gerald's life, work, and place in modern sculpture in Maine and beyond. Delano Auditorium, Leavitt Hall, Maine Maritime Academy, Castine.

## Saturday, August 6

### Jibbies Art Class: Making Sculpture from Found Objects in Nature

9:30 a.m.-Noon / Co-sponsored with the Castine Arts Association. Open to all ages and abilities. Pre-registration required at [castinehistoricalsociety.org](http://castinehistoricalsociety.org).

## Thursday, August 18

### Annual Meeting and Program: "My Favorite Stories from Americans Who Tell the Truth"

4:00-6:00 p.m. / Following a brief CHS business meeting, nationally-known artist, Robert Shetterly, will give a talk on his portraits of courage and commitment. Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Castine.

## Saturday, August 20

### Screening of *Truth Tellers* Documentary

2:00 p.m. / CHS presents a screening of *Truth Tellers*, the documentary story of Robert Shetterly's art and activism. Screened at the Alamo Theatre, Bucksport.

## Abbott School Exhibits (17 School Street)

### June 6 – September 5

Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. / Sun. 1-4 p.m.

### September 9 – October 10

Fri., Sat., Mon. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. / Sun. 1-4 p.m.

### Clark Fitz-Gerald: Castine's Celebrated Sculptor-in-Residence

### Penobscot Expedition 1779: Making Revolutionary History

### The Castine Community Bicentennial Quilt

## Grindle House (13 School Street)

Staff work year-round Monday-Friday.

A limited number of research appointments are available. At this time, masking is required to enter this building. To schedule an appointment, contact [curator@castinehistoricalsociety.org](mailto:curator@castinehistoricalsociety.org).

## Castine Uncovered Walking Tours

### June 17 – October 10

Fri., Sat., Mon. 10:00 a.m.

No reservations required. Private tours may be booked with advanced notice subject to guide availability.

## Virtual History Tour of Castine

To download the app or access the web version of the tour, visit [castinehistoricalsociety.org](http://castinehistoricalsociety.org).

Go to the "Visit" drop down button and click on Castine Virtual Tour.

We seek to invigorate our community through collaborative exploration and stewardship of our region's rich history, engaging residents and visitors of all ages in Castine's extraordinary past and, through it, that of New England and North America.

*The Castine Visitor is published three times a year by the Castine Historical Society as a benefit of membership.*

Karen V. Lyons, Editor



## Director's Letter



by Lisa Simpson Lutts

It's been an amazingly busy time for the staff and volunteers as we approach the home stretch for opening our new exhibition, *Clark Fitz-Gerald: Castine's Celebrated Sculptor-in-Residence*. This art exhibit looks at the life and work of Castine's most celebrated artist, Clark Fitz-Gerald. Fitz-Gerald was an internationally-known sculptor who lived and worked here from 1956 until his death in 2004. As many members know, in 2017 his children, Stephen and Leah, donated Fitz-Gerald's voluminous archives to CHS. The exhibition uses sketches, documentary photographs, and writings from these archives, and over 21 collectors have lent pieces to the exhibit, which opens June 6 and will continue through October 10.

Curating an exhibit is not an easy or quick task. We began working on the show in 2020 when we sent out a request for proposal for a guest curator who had a background in art history. We were thrilled to hire noted Maine art historian, Carl Little, to curate the exhibition. Little's credentials for this work are outstanding. He has organized numerous exhibits on Maine artists and written art books and magazine articles on Maine's art scene. In 2021 he received the Dorothea and Leo Rabkin Foundations' Lifetime Achievement Award for art writing.

Exhibits take time to come to fruition, and they are not cheap to produce. In 2021 we received partial funding through a Maine Arts Commission Major Project Grant and a smaller Arts and History Grant. These, along with an anonymous private donation, helped to pay for some costs such as consulting fees,

exhibitions supplies and materials, professional design, and production of the large interpretive label panels.

With funding in place, throughout 2021 Carl visited CHS to conduct research in the Fitz-Gerald archives. He selected the artwork, wrote interpretive label text, and oversaw the exhibit's design layout. He worked seamlessly with our exhibition team, which consists of the CHS staff, the Exhibits Committee, and Clark's son, Stephen, who is our project advisor.

Designing the exhibit is another crucial part of curating an exhibition. For this project, we hired graphic designer Yvonne Lauzière, who did everything from choosing color schemes and fonts to designing the large interpretive panels and smaller labels. As I write this, these labels are being produced by Banner City in Bucksport, the firm we have used for many years.

As soon as we realized that we lacked an important component for a sculpture exhibit—pedestals—Marc Pelletier, our Buildings and Grounds Chair, saved the day. He designed and built four pedestals, created a niche for one very important sculpture, and designed a complicated hanging system that allows us to display several small sculptures on a wall. We can't thank him and his committee members who helped—Charlie Pearce, Pedrick Sweet, and Steve Skillen—enough for their hard work.

Many thanks also to the exhibition volunteers—Brooke Tenney, Susie Hatch, Don Tenney, and Marcia Mason—for their fine work advising on the exhibition, and in advance, for installing it. Exhibits are all about teamwork, and we hope you will enjoy the fruits of these efforts in this exciting new 2022 season show at CHS!

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Clark Fitz-Gerald

### *Castine's Celebrated Sculptor-in-Residence*

pedestals and then sometimes translate into full-fledged sculptures. Thanks to Castine native and Fitz-Gerald friend, Todd Nelson, we can display an assortment of these miniature artworks and better understand their appeal and purpose—just one facet of a remarkable sculptural oeuvre.

**Writing about Fitz-Gerald in *Maine Life* in June 1980**, writer Tom Schroth referred to him as “Maine’s most renowned living sculptor.” Other eminent sculptors were active at the time, but none had the far-reaching fame enjoyed by Fitz-Gerald, whose commissioned work could be found across the state and the country—and in England where his piece *The Plumb-line and the City* graces Coventry Cathedral.

Fitz-Gerald took his place in a remarkable cohort of 20th-century Maine sculptors that included Gaston LaChaise (1882-1935), William Zorach (1887-1966), Robert Laurent (1890-1970), Louise Nevelson (1899-1988), William Muir (1902-1964), Jane Wasey (1912-1992), Bernard Langlais (1921-1977), Abbott Pattison (1916-1999), Edwin Gamble (1922-2006), and Cabot Lyford (1925-2016). Together, they represent an exceptional cross-section—the pinnacle, really—of American sculpture of the last century.

Part of the pleasure of diving into the Fitz-Gerald archives at the Castine Historical Society was finding all the connections the artist made to the Maine art scene. For example, the archives include catalogues from the Ogunquit Museum of American Art’s annual art auction to which Fitz-Gerald donated work for many years. And there are many references to Vincent Hartgen, the painter, University of Maine professor, and impresario of art who showed—and exhibited with—Fitz-Gerald on many occasions.

The archives are extensive and fascinating, offering an intimate look at the life and creative process of a hard-working and outspoken artist. To make the selections for *Clark Fitz-Gerald: Castine's Celebrated Sculptor-in-Residence* proved a daunting yet exciting challenge.

When writing about artists, I like to quote their own words as much as possible, feeling that such a primary source adds to our understanding of the individual. The materials in the Fitz-Gerald archives provided a bounty of citable text, from his notes for lectures to personal correspondence. His exchange of letters with award-winning writer Jane Langton (1922-2018) is worthy of its own publication.

Fitz-Gerald spent time on his writings, as evidenced by numerous

drafts of letters and lecture notes, often heavily edited. He cared about how he came across. Writing to Mary Bennett, R.N., Ph.D., at Eastern Maine Medical Center after his sculpture of a nude woman was removed due to staff complaints, he took the time to explain his perspective without anger or patronization. “Art, for the viewer, is a sort of Rorschach Test that exposes one’s interests and concerns,” he noted at one point. “I believe ‘My Lady’ to be innocent of any wrongdoing.”

Another treasure in the collection is Fitz-Gerald’s diary from his time at the Philadelphia College of Art (now part of the University of the Arts) in 1936-1940. This day-to-day record tells the story of a young man committed to obtaining the skills necessary to live the life of an artist. The journals represent a significant art-historical document, relating the goings-on of one of the country’s oldest and most prestigious schools of art.

Fortunately for us—and the artist—Fitz-Gerald survived World War II despite being in the middle of the action and being wounded late in the conflict. He was able to take the lessons learned and skills acquired in college and create a life in art, first as a teacher and then as a sought-after sculptor.

**The archives presented numerous revelations.** I was not aware, for example, that Fitz-Gerald was a brilliant caricaturist, as virtuoso in his exaggerated likenesses as David Levine or Ralph Steadman. His takes on summer people, preachers, a creationist, and, notably, himself draw attention to individual foibles in often biting and frequently hilarious ways.



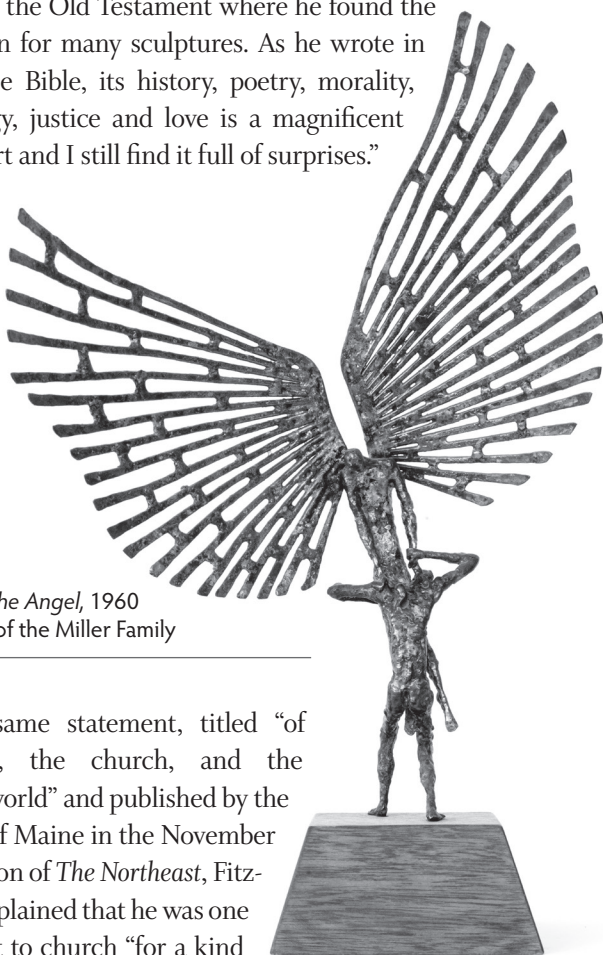
**Summer person in the library:** “I have a few things I’d like to run off on your computer”



My knowledge of the Bible is spotty, so I was grateful to be able to turn to Castine seasonal resident and longtime friend of the artist, Reverend Edward O. Miller, Jr., for help in fathoming some of the featured pieces. His additions to the exhibition label texts are eloquent and insightful—and crucial to understanding Fitz-Gerald's interpretations of scriptural texts.

The archives highlight Fitz-Gerald's status as one of the foremost religious artists of his time. Publications from various faiths and congregations across the country extolled his art in feature pieces about his work.

While Fitz-Gerald sometimes expressed his misgivings about the church, he never lost his love of the Bible, in particular the Old Testament where he found the inspiration for many sculptures. As he wrote in 1971, "The Bible, its history, poetry, morality, psychology, justice and love is a magnificent work of art and I still find it full of surprises."



*Jacob and the Angel, 1960*  
Collection of the Miller Family

In that same statement, titled "of judgment, the church, and the modern world" and published by the Diocese of Maine in the November 1971 edition of *The Northeast*, Fitz-Gerald explained that he was one who went to church "for a kind of personal celebration of thanksgiving for a life which I find exciting." His representations of biblical stories and his contributions to places of worship underscore the celebratory nature of his work and vision.

**A couple of memories inspired me to pursue** the curatorship of this exhibition. One involved a visit to Fitz-Gerald's studio with longtime College of the Atlantic art professor, JoAnne Carpenter, and one of her classes sometime in the late 1990s. A huge piece of elm stood in the yard awaiting his ministrations and he gave us a tour of his studio. As a former COA board member, he was welcoming and happy to have students visit.

I also recalled a visit to Coventry Cathedral with my family in the mid-1960s, a decade or so before Fitz-Gerald's *The Plumb-line and the City* was installed. I recall the bombed-out section of the structure, left in its destroyed state, and the new cathedral with its winged angel. I can visualize how his complex shimmering sculpture fits into this moving monument of loss and renewal.



*The Plumb-line and the City, 1971*

In considering how *Clark Fitz-Gerald: Castine's Celebrated Sculptor-in-Residence* came about, I am compelled to rewrite a well-known saying thusly: It takes a village to support a sculptor. Castine nurtured Fitz-Gerald, honored him and kept him on his toes. In my interactions with Ann Miller, Brooke Tenney, Stephen Fitz-Gerald, and others, I came to recognize a complex human being who lived life—and art—to the fullest.

In donating their father's archives to the Castine Historical Society, Stephen and Leah Fitz-Gerald have assured his legacy in this town he called home for the better part of a half century. What is more, their gift inspired this occasion to celebrate his life and artistic vision—to revisit or discover for the first time his exceptional work.

I hope *Clark Fitz-Gerald: Castine's Celebrated Sculptor-in-Residence* inspires a museum or other venue to consider a retrospective—such a show is, in my opinion, long overdue. I thank the staff and volunteers of the Castine Historical Society and the generous collectors for their commitment to this exhibition. Let it now shine.

This exhibition is funded in part through two grants from the Maine Arts Commission, an independent state agency supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, and an anonymous private donation.

# The 2022 Castine House & Garden Tour

by Lisa Haugen, Chair, Development Committee

*The* Historical Society's biggest fundraising event is finally happening after a two-year hiatus. The delay has allowed for an expanded array of gorgeous gardens and gracious summer homes to be included in the tour. All are located within the pedestrian-friendly village. A fleet of volunteer-driven, free shuttles will make it comfortable to get around.



Under the experienced leadership of Event Chair Ruth Scheer, Vice Chairs Lynne and Mary Dearborn, and a sizable committee, this year's tour promises to be the best one ever! A

total of 9 homes, many with attached gardens, and an additional 6 gardens comprise the tour. A few of the homes are newly and masterfully renovated and have never before been open to the public. This will be a special opportunity to see some state-of-the-art finishes and inspiring design ideas.

With the sudden and unexpected challenges that the COVID pandemic brought to Castine, as well as to the world, one thing

became very apparent: the notion of home is central to our safety and well-being.

Each of the owners offers a unique and thoughtful insight into our newly defined ideas of how a home should function. Summer homes suddenly became primary homes, living areas had to include workspaces, and dining rooms doubled as learning spaces. Castine and the world had to adapt to the needs of the moment, and thus our little town became a haven for many families who took refuge here from their densely-populated city locales.

Many Castine homeowners upped the ante when it came to the notion of creating a retreat. You will find among these homes, a calm, sea-hued palette mixed with restrained Gustavian-inspired décor. You may also step into an historic 19th century manse reimagined with a classically modern kitchen addition with a minimalist, art lover's point of view. Admire traditional, New England styles that celebrate pattern and color in layers of updated, multi-cultural sophistication as well as shingled cottages that shine in their elegant and fresh approach to family-friendly living.

Castine's garden spaces have also grown prolifically in the past few years. A renaissance in gardening has taken hold in Castine as it has everywhere - with a recognition that gardens offer spiritual renewal, safe spaces, exercise, as well as nourishment. Many of the gardens on this tour give a sense of orderly, contained canvases of color, blooming within magnificently built hardscaping. Others are more intimate, a dance with nature where the lines blur between leader and follower. Still other gardens will invite you along for a journey, turning corners, stepping up or down to reveal ever-changing vignettes as if under the command of a painter's eye.



Make your plans to attend this, our biggest event of the season, by going to the dedicated website, [castinehousetour.org](http://castinehousetour.org), where you will see all the details including how to purchase tickets, view schedules, and learn about events such as the afternoon tea at the Castine Inn.

## Castine House & Garden Tour

Friday, July 22, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

To purchase advance tickets:

- visit [castinehousetour.org](http://castinehousetour.org)
- call 207-326-4118
- after June 6, in-person at the Abbott School

We wish to acknowledge and thank our generous lead corporate sponsors who helped make this possible. A full list of corporate and individual supporters will be in the fall *Castine Visitor*.

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# What's New in the Gift Shop

*Did* you know that almost everything we sell in the Abbott School gift shop is exclusive to the Castine Historical Society? We work hard to source unusual and high-quality Castine-related items for the shop that you can't find anywhere else.

Some of our newest items for the 2022 season include:

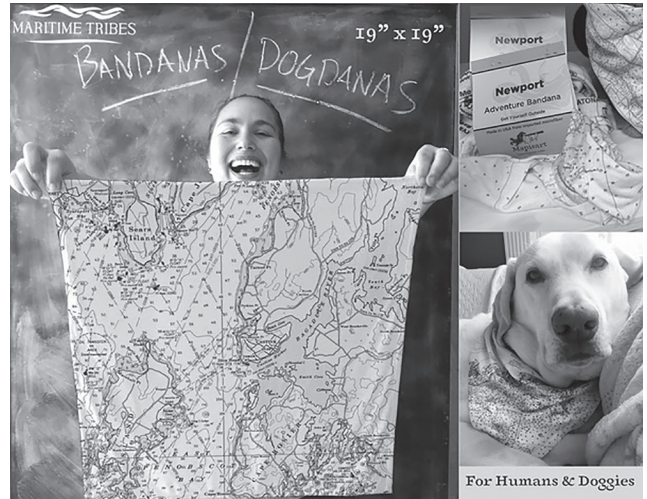
- Castine nautical chart bucket hat perfect for sailing or the beach
- Insulated nautical-themed wine bags
- Castine Bicentennial Quilt mugs — first in a series of three
- Castine nautical chart golf towels
- Fun Castine dog bandanas

Back in stock, we have our popular CHS logo fleece jackets, the elegant 15 or 21 oz. four flag stemless wine glasses, books, and several versions of unique-to-us Castine totes. Stop by the gift shop during open hours or shop online by going to the homepage of [castinehistoricalsociety.org](http://castinehistoricalsociety.org) and looking for the “Shop” button in the upper right. If you shop online, we can ship or we can arrange for local pick up.

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*And don't forget that all current members get a 10% discount!*

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Castine nautical chart bandanas for humans and doggies

Castine nautical chart  
bucket hat



Castine nautical chart golf towels

Castine Bicentennial Quilt mugs



Insulated nautical-themed wine bags



# Schedule of Programs

We are excited to present here a selection of our 2022 schedule of programs. See the calendar page and our website for the full list of events. COVID is still with us, so before attending check the website [castinehistoricalsociety.org](http://castinehistoricalsociety.org) or call us at 207-326-4118 to ensure the event will be held in-person.

## Clark Fitz-Gerald: Aspects of my Father's Life Emerson Hall, 67 Court St., Castine Thursday, June 23 • 5:30 p.m.

Clark Fitz-Gerald's son, Stephen, will present a new illustrated talk on the life and work of his father followed by a question-and-answer period.



Clark Fitz-Gerald with his son, Stephen, in front of his studio

## 2022 Open House Abbott School, 17 School St., Castine Saturday, June 25 • 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Join us to celebrate the new season, view the exhibitions, and enjoy light refreshments.



Last year's open house

## Jewelry Day at CHS Abbott School, 17 Court St., Castine Thursday, June 30

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Make your appointment for a preliminary valuation of your antique, vintage, or contemporary jewelry with Sacha Grippando of Bellwether Advisory & Appraisals. Your appointment is limited to one piece of jewelry per 10-minute appointment, but you are welcome to make back-to-back appointments. The cost is \$15 per piece for this CHS fundraiser. Call us at 207-326-4118 to schedule your appointment.

7:00 p.m.

Sacha will be back to present an illustrated talk on mid-20th century jewelry design. In honor of the Clark Fitz-Gerald exhibition, she will also talk about Clark's jewelry design. Feel free to wear or bring your own piece of Fitz-Gerald jewelry for a show and tell afterwards! Seating limited to 40 on a first-come, first-served basis.

## Castine House & Garden Tour Friday, July 22 • 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Pre-order your tickets for the long-awaited Castine House & Garden Tour! Visit nine beautiful homes and six gracious gardens. Rain or shine with shuttle service provided.

Tickets: \$45 pp through July 10; \$50 pp thereafter. To learn more and purchase tickets visit [castinehousetour.org](http://castinehousetour.org). Tickets may also be purchased at the CHS Abbott School during open hours.



One of the homes featured on the Castine House & Garden Tour





Carl Little. Photo courtesy of Erin Little.

**The 13th Annual Deborah Pulliam Memorial Lecture  
Delano Auditorium  
in Levitt Hall  
Maine Maritime Academy  
Thursday, August 4  
7:00 p.m.**

Carl Little, the guest curator for the Clark Fitz-Gerald exhibition, will deliver an illustrated lecture highlighting the life and work of Castine's famed 20th-century sculptor, providing context for his place in modern sculpture in Maine and beyond. The talk will

feature photographs, sketches, caricatures, and other materials from the Fitz-Gerald collection, part of the gift of the artist's children, Leah and Stephen Fitz-Gerald.

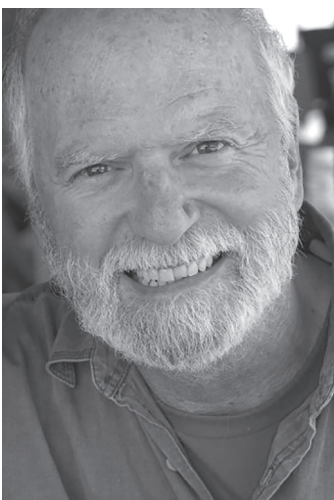
A graduate of Dartmouth College, with additional degrees from Columbia and Middlebury, Little moved to Mount Desert Island from New York City in 1989. He directed the Ethel Blum Gallery at College of the Atlantic for eight years and has helped organize exhibitions at the Farnsworth Art Museum, the Portland Museum of Art, and the Penobscot Marine Museum. He was director of communications and marketing at the Maine Community Foundation from 2001 to 2021.

Little is the author of numerous art books, is a regular contributor to magazines, and in 2021, the Dorothea and Leo Rabkin Foundation presented him with its Lifetime Achievement Award for art writing.

The Deborah Pulliam Memorial Lectures began in 2009 to honor her memory and achievements. Ms. Pulliam, who died in 2007, generously supported organizations in Castine and beyond. She was an active member of the Castine Historical Society and served as the editor of *The Castine Visitor* for six years.

**Castine Historical Society Annual Meeting and Program  
Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
86 Court St., Castine  
Thursday, August 18 • 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.**

The 2022 Annual Meeting and Program is open to members as well as to the general public. The event begins with a brief meeting to share committee reports and elect new officers and members to the Board of Directors.



Robert Shetterly

After the business meeting, nationally-known artist and Brooksville resident, Robert Shetterly, will give a talk on portraits he's painted and the stories of the people who affected him the most with their courage and commitment. The portraits have given Shetterly an opportunity to speak all over the country about the necessity of dissent in a democracy, the obligations of citizenship, sustainability, US history, and how democracy

cannot function if the truth is not told.

Following the talk, Shetterly will sign copies of his award-winning book, *Americans Who Tell the Truth*.

***Truth Tellers* Documentary Screening  
Alamo Theatre, 85 Main St., Bucksport  
Saturday, August 20 • 2:00 p.m.**

CHS is pleased to sponsor a screening of *Truth Tellers*, a documentary by Maine filmmaker Richard Kane on artist and activist Robert Shetterly who has painted 255 portraits of Americans, past and present, who had the moral courage to confront issues of social, environmental, and economic justice.

*The Americans Who Tell the Truth* portraits painted by Robert Shetterly have been exhibited throughout the U.S. for almost two decades. The documentary is both a story of Shetterly's art and activism and a history lesson in what it means to be a citizen of a democracy.

*Truth Tellers* director, producer, and cinematographer is Richard Kane, an independent director whose work is focused on the intersection of art and contemporary American life. The documentary was written by Judith Dwan Hallet, a documentary filmmaker who has been making films for 50 years and who has received many distinguished awards. Both Shetterly and Kane will attend the screening, introduce the documentary, and take questions following the presentation.

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*Many thanks* to volunteer, Ken Scheer, for his new Living History video for the Clark Fitz-Gerald exhibition. Ken interviewed Carl Little, Ann Miller, Todd Nelson, Don Small, Dr. Bill Brennan, and Cynthia Boyer about their memories of Fitz-Gerald in Castine. Portions of the video can be viewed in the exhibition gallery.

To see the full Living History video,  
visit [castinehistoricalsociety.org](http://castinehistoricalsociety.org)  
and click on Collections – Living History.



Clark Fitz-Gerald  
*Ebb and Flow*, 1968  
Courtesy Stephen and Leah Fitz-Gerald



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To pay by credit card, or for more information, please call 207-326-4118

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Castine Historical Society

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Rollie McKenna photograph

### Clark Fitz-Gerald's Tools

By Todd R. Nelson

"Back in five...Gone for the mail"—  
A scrawled note stuck to his welder  
was my ticket to inspect.

Works in progress: a Mobius strip  
carved in Elm, like a woman's thighs  
perused out of twisty grain;  
a brass kelp frond clutching a stone,  
like eagle talons goring a slippery fish;  
stout trunks and limbs idling  
in dusty corners, gleanings  
from the town crew;  
common wood awaiting arcane form—  
vertebrae of *Eubalaena glacialis*, or  
enlarged spores of *Chanterellus cibarius*?

Each tool had half-sculpted itself:  
wedges peeled like iron lilies under  
well-aimed blows; a tattoo  
of files and chisels, parading along  
the wall; ball peen hammers  
polished bright on brass and anvil,  
handles scoured by Clark's sure grip,  
snuggling the work, imagining the imagining,  
and blow-by-blow loosing sprites and raptors  
from their clever lairs.

#### VISIT US:

13 & 17 School Street  
Castine, Maine 04421

#### CONTACT US:

(207) 326-4118  
[info@castinehistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@castinehistoricalsociety.org)

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