

**TopSpin**

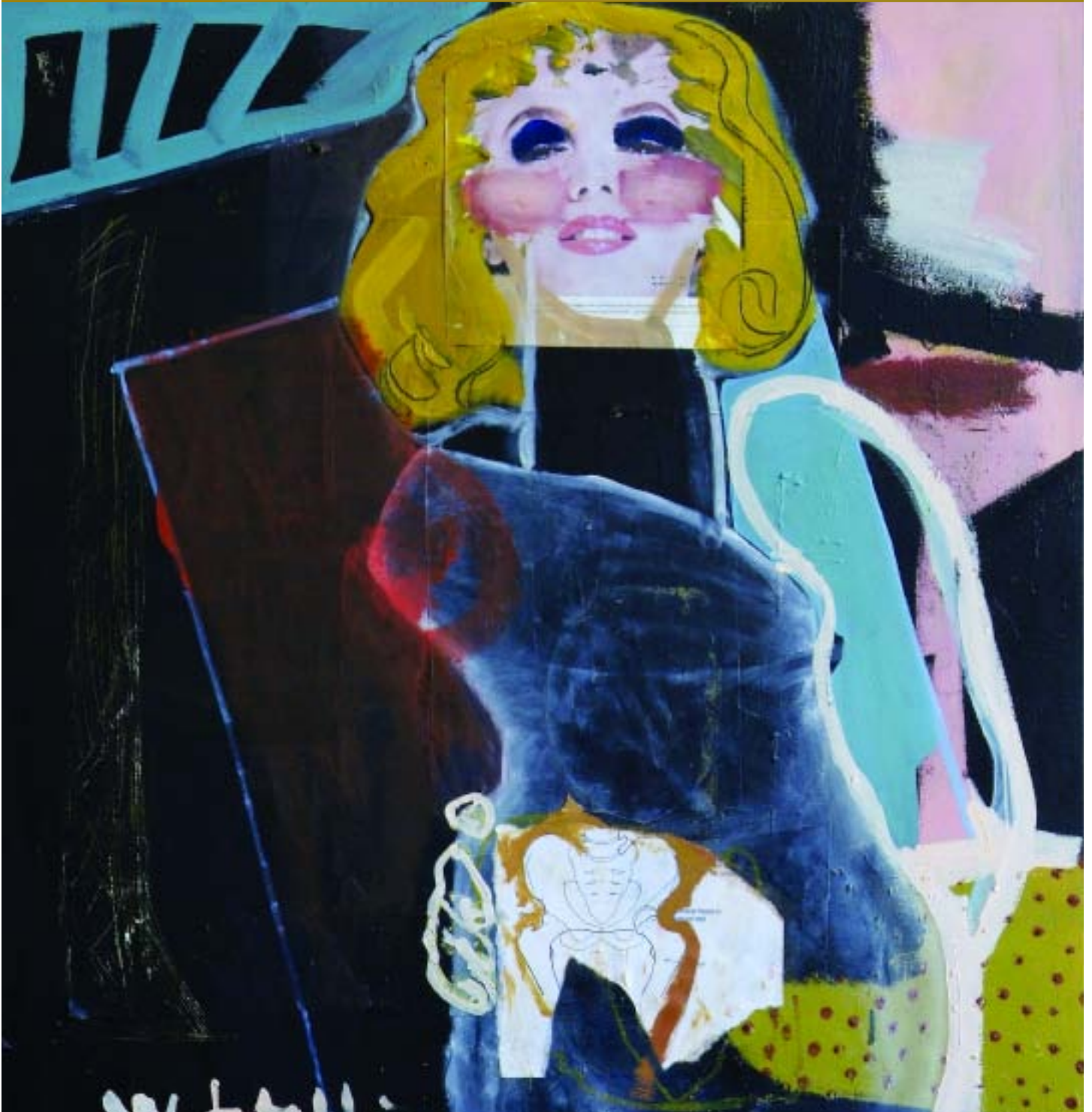
Artists of Western New York and Beyond

**Dorothy Fitzgerald**

**Recalculating: Take Next Right onto Roller Coaster Road**

October 5, 2007 - January 13, 2008

Opening reception with artist's talk: First Friday, November 2, 5:00 - 9:00 p.m.



**dorothyfitzgerald**

*No dietary today (detail), 2007, oil, paper on canvas, 40x30 in.*



A work of art lives, remembers, and most profoundly, reveals to those who welcome these experiences. Dorothy Fitzgerald's exhibition *Recalculating: Take Next Right onto Roller Coaster Road* reveals a life-changing event. Last year Fitzgerald's world was turned upside down when unbearable discomfort brought her to the realization that a double hip replacement was necessary. With an illustrious career as art instructor and professional artist, these works represent a self-realized tribute to her personal trials and tribulations. A number of these works were begun just prior to the surgery, which she foresaw as a tragedy! Ultimately, in her words it "turned out to be an opportunity...for life transformation."

Simultaneously reflected in these works is not only the anxiety about how to keep her family afloat, but also a critical period of introspection. Fitzgerald's recovery was embedded with what she refers to as "a stillness I was not used to." This period of introspection afforded her the awareness that she was still in control of her destiny, able to make the right choices that would continue to enrich her life as well as support her family. Her recovery was not without turmoil or drama. She continued to paint with the aid of a walker, and hand fashioned tools to extend her reach across the paintings. The paintings were positioned on the floor where she was able to work around them.

As an artist journeys through life, there are periods of transition, elevation, and deviation. One's path, foreseen or envisioned, is not always the path offered. Unexpected challenges morph our path. Those who choose to face these challenges head-on demonstrate an insatiable drive for success and triumph. The works included in this exhibition dwell in, and are intertwined with Fitzgerald's life changing journey.

**Michael J. Beam**  
**Curator of Exhibitions and Collections**  
**Castellani Art Museum**

*"It was as if I had plummeted off of a safe peak, was rocketing around a sharp corner, and eventually as if I was climbing a sharp track without being able to see what might be on the other side. It was a rollercoaster ride. I hope you enjoy this part of the ride with me."*



*Sweet volatile Saoirse (detail), 2007, oil on canvas, 65 x 84 in.*



(from left to right): *Because I love you*, 2007, oil, oil stick, duct tape on canvas, 60x48 in.; *I'll get my hair done after PT and before OT*, 2007, oil vintage paper, pen, charcoal, electrical tape on canvas, 60x48 in.; *Just one more thing*, 2007, oil, vintage paper, spray paint on canvas, 60x 48 in.; *Do you know Jim? I do*, 2007, oil, spray paint, oil stick, x-ray film on canvas, 60x48 in.; *Just put my socks on!*, 2007, oil, spray paint, paper on canvas, 60x48 in.; *The dog ate it*, 2007, oil, spray paint, oil stick, duct tape on canvas, 60x48 in. *Digital photography by Lisa Langer.*

### Artist Statement

My work is figurative, expressionist while rooted in art history.

I create emotional and gestural oil paintings employing mystical

allegories. I integrate popular iconography for their accessibility,

bold use color for it's seduction, and layers of energetic

brushwork for their ability to show the history of the canvas.

My personal experiences and sensuality are reflected in my

paintings with humor and irony as I address an unresolved

duel between conventional and unconventional, conservative

and progressive. Sometimes paint isn't enough and then

I incorporate collage techniques borrowing freely from a

personal photography portfolio, past woman's magazines

and vintage wallpaper.



*Stillness*, 2007, multi-media on canvas, 120x72 in.

Dorothy Fitzgerald was born and raised in Buffalo, New York. She has traveled extensively throughout the country, as well as Central America, Europe, North Africa, The Caribbean, and Canada. She received her Associate of Arts degree from Bradford College, a Bachelor of Science degree from State University of New York at Buffalo, and a Master of Arts from State University of New York at Buffalo. After years of exploration, her concentration became traditional photography because it gave her the creative flexibility she required while raising her children.

Eventually, she returned to oil painting, often incorporating her photographs into her work. Fitzgerald's work has become increasingly large, incorporating various media, primarily oil on canvas and paper.

Fitzgerald has exhibited her work in galleries across New York as well as nationally. She has been a Visiting Artist, Artist in Residence, and Visiting Teacher for country, state, county, and city arts organizations, museums, and has received important grants for special projects. She has been a teacher in the Niagara Falls

City Public School District for the past twenty-eight years, as well as actively teaching workshops and lectures throughout Western New York. Locally she has been featured in *The Buffalo News*, *Buffalo Spree*, *Niagara Gazette*, *Chautauquian Daily*, *Amherst Bee*, *Artvoice* and *Design* and was recently featured in the television program; *Art is Music*, in association with the University at Buffalo. She is a past board member of the Chautauqua Center for The Visual Arts, New York, and resides in Buffalo where she maintains a private studio at the Tri-Main Building.

**EDUCATION**

**2002-6** Course Work, Chautauqua School of Art, Chautauqua, NY

**2003** Course Work, American University, Purgeria, Italy

**1984-1986** Course Work, State University of New York at Buffalo, NY

**1976** Masters of Arts in Education, State University of New York at Buffalo, NY

**1974** Bachelor of Science in Art Education, State University of New York at Buffalo, NY

**1972** Associates of Arts, Bradford Junior College, Haverhill, MA

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**2007** Portfolio Development, Studio ElevenEleven, Tri-Main Center, Buffalo, NY

**2005** Visiting Art Instructor, Our Little Roses, San Pedro Sula, Honduras

**2001-2003** Gallery Director/Curator, Niagara Arts Cultural Center, Niagara Falls, NY

**1974-2007** Art Educator, Niagara Falls School District, Niagara Falls, NY

Niagara Falls Teacher Resource Center, Niagara Falls, NY

**SELECTED RESIDENCIES AND AWARDS**

**2002-2004** Artist in Residence, Artpark, Lewiston, NY

**2003** Technical Assistance Program Grant from New York State Foundation of the Arts, New York, NY

Studied and traveled with American University in Perugia, Italy

**2002** Department Chair, Niagara Falls High School, Niagara Falls, NY

International Study Sabbatical Leave, Niagara Falls School District, NY

**SELECTED EXHIBITIONS**

**2007** Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Curators Choice Exhibition, Buffalo, NY

Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Collectors Gallery, Buffalo, NY

Artemi Future, Hallwalls Contemporary Art Center, Buffalo, NY

Small Works, Insite Gallery, Buffalo NY

ARTitecture, 141 Gallery, Buffalo, NY

Collectors Gallery, Lincoln House, Buffalo, NY

**2006** Regional Artist Collection, Albright - Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY

Curator Choice Exhibit, Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY

Trot To Knox, Public Art Project, New York State Parks Department, East Aurora, NY

Couch Paintings, Studio ElevenEleven, Buffalo, NY

Music is Art, State University of New York at Buffalo, NY

Beyond The Barrel, Niagara Arts and Cultural Center, Niagara Falls, NY

**2005** Music is Art, State University of New York at Buffalo, NY

Visible, Garden Gallery, Niagara Falls NY

Century House Exhibition, Collectors Gallery, Buffalo, NY

National Woman Exhibition, Impact Gallery, Buffalo, NY

The Correspondence Collective, Elizabeth Holden Gallery, Asheville, NC

Members Show, First Floor Gallery, Niagara Falls, NY

Beyond the Barrel, Niagara Falls Arts and Cultural Center, Niagara Falls, NY

**2004** New York Collects Buffalo State, Burchfield-Penney Art Center, Buffalo State College, NY

Distance 2 Passage, Warren Wilson College, Asheville, NC

Wolf Dreams and Irish Eyes, Chautauqua Center for the Visual Arts, NY

Paper and Beyond, Fourth Heaven Gallery, Niagara Falls, NY

**2003** Born, Bred and by Choice... Three Painters Look at Buffalo, Coffee and Gallery, Buffalo, NY

Holiday Show, Niagara Falls Arts and Cultural Center, Niagara Falls, NY

Annual Exhibition, Chautauqua Center for the Visual Arts, Chautauqua, NY

50th Anniversary Exhibition, Williamsville Art Society, Williamsville, NY

An Artists Journey: Portugal, Italy, Niagara Arts Cultural Center Niagara Falls, NY

**2002** Membership Show, Chautauqua Center for the Visual Arts, Chautauqua, NY

**TopSpin**

Artists of Western New York and Beyond

The museum's Top Spin Gallery – long dedicated to the exhibition of work by local and regional artists – now presents the TopSpin series. This juried series of solo exhibitions draws from the richly diverse work of WNY artists, as well as that of artists beyond the region. TopSpin will feature a broad range of visual expressions, varied in media as well as message.

TopSpin is made possible through the generous support of Tops Markets, LLC.

Catalog design: JCharlier Communication Design



The Institute of Museum and Library Services, a federal agency that fosters innovation, leadership and a lifetime of learning, supports The Castellani Art Museum of Niagara University.



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**CASTELLANI ART MUSEUM**  
OF NIAGARA UNIVERSITY  
[www.niagara.edu/cam](http://www.niagara.edu/cam)

**Museum and Shop**  
Niagara University, NY 14109-1938  
716.286.8200 fax: 716.286.8289  
Tuesday to Saturday, 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Sunday, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.  
Docent tours available upon request. Call 716.286.8200 for additional information.

**Castellani Art Museum at the Falls**  
Conference Center Niagara Falls, 101 Old Falls Street, Niagara Falls, NY 14303  
716.286.8200 fax: 716.286.8289  
Monday to Friday, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.