

Project 1612 is proud to present two Fall 2022 exhibitions and host the artist-in-residency program at the new backyard location in Morton, Illinois. *Peytin Fitzgerald: what now?* on Sunday, September 11 and *Colleen Itani: Bird's Eye* on Saturday, October 22.

Following a short-term residency, each artist will respond to the new outdoor setting, interacting with the garden and yard as they see fit for their work. The ephemeral exhibitions are free and open to the public during the day of their exhibitions. Dates for each exhibition and accompanying programming are listed below.

Peytin Fitzgerald (they/them, she/her) has a background in traditional printmaking, however their work includes installation, journaling, music, and fiber arts. Fitzgerald says their work is “motivated by the longing to discover myself in order to live a life full of pleasure and understanding; to sit in the trials of my life and of those around me, pushing for growth.” They often explore personal experiences of trauma, pain, feminism, classism, and familial relationships through hand-stitched soft sculptures that they call “pillows.” These forms are organic, relating to the body with rounded edges and fleshy colors—scars, bumps, and blemishes are implied through the use of stretching and layers of fabric. The pillows are often pinned to the wall or resting in small hammocks and set within installations that include hand-dyed fabric and clotheslines, artist-generated playlists, altars, and handwritten notes or journal entries. The spaces Fitzgerald creates are loaded with their own narrative, but done in a way to “give permission for others to speak their own stories.”

Fitzgerald, a Wyoming native, is a new artist to the Peoria-area as of summer 2022. Their work has been exhibited at: Transpace Gallery, Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois; Joe McCauley Art Gallery, Heartland Community College, Normal, Illinois; and most recently Our House Entertainment, Peoria. In 2020 Fitzgerald completed a residency at the Stay Home Gallery in Paris, Tennessee. They received a BFA in Studio Art and minor in Gender and Women’s Studies from the University of Wyoming, as well as their MFA in Printmaking from Illinois State University.

Colleen Itani (she/her) maintains an interdisciplinary practice that “explores domestic architecture through an abstracted lens.” She is inspired by everyday structures like row houses, semi-detached homes, and flats and states that, “the timelines of these sites situate themselves along histories of those who have lived within and around them. The architectural forms allow me to use inanimate structures as stand-ins for the body and human relations.” She reflects on spaces close to home in Philadelphia and also structures from her familial past in Beirut, Lebanon, “investigating my present location alongside my heritage.” Through an initial process of intuitive drawing by considering physical and emotional exchanges, Itani’s work “takes on a new form by involving printmaking and photography, resulting in work that plays with scale, temporality and multiplicity.” By abstracting environments, she encourages viewers to visit the world around them through a new lens.

Itani lives and works in Philadelphia, PA. She has exhibited at galleries across the U.S., including New York, California, Florida, and Georgia. She completed a residency at Vermont Studio Center in

2019 and is currently a member at Black Hound Clay Studio and in the Master Gardener program. Itani received her BFA in Studio Art and BA in International Studies from The University of Tampa and her MFA from Florida State University.

Project 1612 exhibitions are co-curated by co-founders [Jessica Bingham](#) and [Alexander Martin](#). The Fall 2022 micro-residencies and exhibitions are sponsored by [Big Picture Initiative](#). Big Picture Initiative is a 501c3 whose mission is to build a thriving & vibrant community for all by using arts and creativity as a driver for social change, economic development, and wellness. They do this by providing arts-based solutions, promoting and supporting artists and arts initiatives, and advancing arts education. Meal assistance for the artists was donated by [Radish Kitchen](#), a “plant-based and vegan hub for the Heart of Illinois.” Radish Kitchen is dedicated to making “plant-based and vegan eating more available and accessible in the region.”

Exhibition Dates

Project 1612 events are free and open to the public. Exhibitions are outside (weather permitting). Changes to events will be posted on social media via [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).

- September 5-11: Artist-in-residence, Peyton Fitzgerald.
- Sunday, September 11, from noon to 6pm: One-day exhibition with Peyton Fitzgerald. Artist talk beginning at 1pm.
- October 19-22: Artist-in-residence, Colleen Itani.
- Saturday, October 22, from noon to 6pm: One-day exhibition with Colleen Itani. Artist talk beginning at 1pm.

Related Websites & Social Media

- Peyton Fitzgerald [website](#) and [Instagram](#)
- Colleen Itani [website](#) and [Instagram](#)
- Big Picture Initiative [website](#) and [Instagram](#)
- Radish Kitchen [website](#) and [Instagram](#)

Project 1612

Project 1612 is located at [813 East Jefferson Street, Morton, Illinois, 61550](#). Street parking is available. Additional information and updates pertaining to Project 1612 can be found on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#). Visit our [website](#) or call 309.798.0375 for additional information.