

Stephen DiRado, Better Together: Four Decades of Photographs
February 1 – June 1, 2025

Opening Reception: February 8, 2025, 2 - 4PM
Artist Talk to be held March 22, 2025, 2PM.



Stephen DiRado, Dinner Series: Lights Out, Chilmark, MA, July 5, 1998, pigment print, 40" x 50", printed 2024. Courtesy of the artist.

This career retrospective exhibition features the work of Stephen DiRado, the leading contemporary artist and fine art photographer in Central Massachusetts. DiRado has taught photography at Clark University in Worcester since 1982, and his work has been exhibited, collected, and published internationally for over forty years. In 2012, he was awarded a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship for excellence in the creative art of photography.

Throughout his career, DiRado has worked in series, usually spanning many years and involving thousands of images, creating and representing communities of people in Worcester and Martha's Vineyard. His photographic practice is intimately intertwined with his life – DiRado carries a camera everywhere and makes photographs every day. He operates within many of the great art historical traditions – portraiture, landscape, still life, and the nude. Through an aesthetic that combines realism and symbolism, he evokes deep human emotions like joy, melancholy, boredom, sensuality, vulnerability, compassion, and most of all, love. DiRado also creates images of the night sky, connecting celestial events with human culture.

Stephen DiRado, *Better Together* includes seventy-five black-and white photographs, over 1,000 projected color images, and three videos about the artist and his work process.



Stephen DiRado, *Edgartown, MA, July 17, 2006*, Printed 2006, Silver Gelatin Print, Courtesy of the artist.

This exhibition was organized by FAM's Director, Nick Capasso

About FAM

The Mission of the Fitchburg Art Museum is to inspire creativity and learning, and to contribute to the well-being of our diverse communities in Fitchburg, North Central Massachusetts, and New England.

To accomplish this mission, we organize exhibitions of the work of New England contemporary artists and artworks from our art historical collections, offer programs for learners of all ages, support public art projects, invite community participation and partnerships, and stimulate the creative economy – all in the spirit of inclusivity.

The Fitchburg Art Museum serves the cities of Fitchburg and Leominster and the surrounding communities in North Central Massachusetts and Southern New Hampshire. Founded in 1925, FAM plays a vital role in the cultural life of the region and has recently repositioned itself to focus on community access and service. FAM uses its artistic and educational resources to aid in the economic revitalization of Fitchburg, and the Museum maintains active educational partnerships with the local school systems, as well as Fitchburg State University. FAM is an engine for creativity, education, community building, and fun!

Hours:

Wednesdays through Fridays, noon – 4:00pm

Saturdays and Sundays, 11:00 am – 5:00 pm

Website: www.fitchburgartmuseum.org

Media Contact:

Nick Capasso, Ph.D. Director,
Fitchburg Art Museum, 185 Elm Street Fitchburg, MA 01420
ncapasso@fitchburgartmuseum.org