



For Immediate Release
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Unto Us a Gift Is Given: Collages by Joy Floyd

Hartford — The Clare Gallery is pleased to present *Unto Us a Gift Is Given: Collages by Joy Floyd*. This exhibition is free and open to the public and extends from October 31–December 29, 2013. A reception will be held on First Thursday, November 7th from 5:30–7:30 p.m. At the reception, Floyd will discuss how her search for materials is ongoing and her process of creating collage art is continuous.

Floyd considers herself a painter utilizing the medium of ‘stuff’ rather than paint. She employs a table instead of an easel and her found materials inspire her art-making process. She does not have any pre-conceived ideas, but allows the energy of the materials and her prayerful process to guide her. Floyd pays attention to the random, discarded bits of the world—anything that has had a life and then is thrown away—and creatively sees another life for the materials in her work.

Her tools are simple: scissors; hammer and nails; screwdriver and screws; plywood; foam core; glue and paste; polymer liquid; brushes and paint for the frames. Floyd’s found materials can range from old wool scraps to plastic bags of buttons to rusty bottle caps from the gutter to gifts from friends’ foreign travels. Her ability to see a new life for her materials is beautifully transformative. The collages are skillfully composed with attention to detail. Her use of scale is magical and texture and pattern are always at play. Viewers can discover the elegance of discarded objects through her finished pieces.

Floyd’s artistic inspiration is from past and present artists such as, Picasso, Louise Nevelson, Hanelore Barron, Kurt Schwitters and Carol Padberg. She feels akin to Joseph Cornell as he describes looking in the aisles of five and dime stores in New York City and clipping pictures from magazines calling his process “the sacred search.”

Floyd is a master collage artist for over 20 years in Hartford, Connecticut. Her studio is in the Arbor Art Center and she is a current member of Mixus Collage Group and Connecticut Women Artists. She has an extensive Connecticut exhibition record including group, three person and solo exhibitions. More information can be found at joymariefloyd.com

The Clare Gallery primarily features exhibitions that emphasize world religions or interfaith themes, as well as social justice themes, on either a global or local level. The Gallery is housed in the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry at 285 Church Street. The Center is part of St. Patrick – St. Anthony Church, a vibrant and active downtown faith community.

The Clare Gallery’s hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays; 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Fridays; Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The Gallery and all related events are open to the public. Free parking is available directly across from the church, and the facility is handicapped accessible. More information may be found at www.spsact.org, click “Community Life” and then “Clare Gallery”.