



For Immediate Release  
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## Exhibition *Metanoia* Opens at Clare Gallery

Hartford — The Clare Gallery is pleased to present *Metanoia*, a dramatic series of paintings by artist Richard Harden. The series consists of more than fifteen paintings that question the human condition through metaphorical associations. This exhibition is free and open to the public and extends from March 20–May 4, 2014. A reception will be held on Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30–7:30 p.m. At the reception, Harden will discuss his undying search for universal meaning and imagery in the struggles and resurrection of the human condition.

The title of the exhibition, *Metanoia*, refers to a transformative change of heart (most related to spiritual conversion). The term's origin is Greek, from "metanoiein," meaning to change one's mind, or repent. It is a term that is regularly used in the Greek New Testament.

The exhibition is timely in its connection to the Christian season of Lent. In this tradition, reflection over forty days brings about transformation. Transformation has always been primary to the conceptual nature of Harden's work, and his paintings, along with his accompanying text, allow us to reflect on our lives and the lives of others.

In this series, Harden explores flowers and hair in varied states of binding and unbinding. There are reflected surfaces along with abstracted space; fragile beauty irradiated by dramatic explosions. The colors are intensely saturated, as well as deep and dark, yielding the juxtaposition of opposing emotions. Harden's metaphors often question our tenuous assumptions about personal identity and relationships. *Metanoia* carries viewers on a journey of questioning our stability and existence, yet the work does not provide definitive answers.

Richard Harden's paintings and drawings are a powerful metaphoric mix of themes, imagery and materials rooted in more than thirty years of art making. He has traveled extensively to Eastern Europe, the Balkans, the Middle East and Africa. He has worked onsite in Poland during martial law, in Germany during the opening of the Berlin Wall, and in Serbia, Bosnia, Macedonia, Albania and Kosovo during the unraveling of the Yugoslav Republic. Harden has more recently created work in Palestine, Israel, Ethiopia and Darfur. His work has been widely exhibited in the U.S. and Europe and is included in many private, corporate, university, and museum collections including The Metropolitan Museum Art, the Cooper-Hewitt Museum of Art and Design, the New Britain Museum of American Art, The Vatican, and Solidarity. More information can be found at his website: [richardhardenart.com](http://richardhardenart.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, Hartford, CT. 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](http://www.spsact.org), click "Community Life" and then "Clare Gallery."