



For Immediate Release  
December 2011

Contact: Catherine Wynn  
[chat\\_cat@cox.net](mailto:chat_cat@cox.net)

## *The Practice of Iconography*

Hartford — The Clare Gallery is pleased to present *The Practice of Iconography*. This exhibition is free and open to the public and extends from February 9th to April 12th, 2012. A reception and artist lecture will be held on Thursday, March 1st, 2012 from 5:30–7:30 p.m. where iconographer Marek Czarnecki and his students will discuss the fundamental meaning of iconography; their history and holy traditions; and their historical materials and techniques, which have been used for centuries. Please join us for this in-depth exploration into the beauty and depth of icons.

For ten years, Meriden iconographer Marek Czarnecki has been teaching a small, dedicated group of local students to paint, or more properly said “write,” traditional icons in a historical technique and style. Working from Russian, Greek, Byzantine, Serbian and contemporary prototypes, this local circle of iconographers practices and preserves an important artistic and dogmatic patrimony, which belongs to the universal church, east and west.

Representing diverse ethnic, cultural and denominational backgrounds, these icons reflect the personal piety of their makers, as well as the needs of their respective spiritual communities. The artists in this exhibition are: *Beverly Berger*, Hartford; *Sister Mary Deborah Blados*, New Britain; *Jody Corso*, East Haven; *Marek Czarnecki*, Meriden; *Mary Fischer*, Madison; *Chantal Heinegg*, Larchmont NY; *Ofelia Manero*, Old Greenwich; *Julie Mullen*, Vernon; *Sandra Pons*, West Hartford; *Janet Yuhas Wagner*, Newington; *Barbara Vartenigian*, Hartford; *Grace Zazzaro*, Mystic.

Icons are not a simple style of religious art; rather, they present us with a whole vision of reality that uses art as its tool. Icons open a window into the transfigured world where spirit and matter are interconnected. To articulate the invisible world of the spirit, icons use a very careful language of signs, symbols, ideal order and beauty, yet they can never lapse into the abstract or purely allegorical.

In addition to the artist reception, the Clare Gallery will be hosting a Twilight Retreat program entitled, “The Iconography of the Passion of Our Lord” on Monday, March 26, 2012, 5-8 p.m. by Marek Czarnecki. If interested in attending this retreat please contact the Gallery and r.s.v.p. by March 21st.

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](http://www.spsact.org), click “Community Life” and then “Clare Gallery”.