

CLARE

GALLERY

at the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry

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Pulse of Life Artwork by Nancy Earle, smic

Hartford — The Clare Gallery is pleased to present *Pulse of Life*. This exhibition is free and open to the public and extends from October 4th to November 11th, 2012. A reception and artist lecture will be held on Saturday, November 10th, 2012 from 5:00–7:30 p.m. where Nancy Earle will present her lecture “The Great Journey”. During this lecture, she will take us on a visual journey with forty-five of her paintings in five sections: Origins of Life, Human Spirit, Human Struggle, Choice and Transformation.

Nancy’s artistic and spiritual path was influenced at an early age by her father, Edwin Earle, who lived among the Hopi and honored their ceremonial life by painting Kachina dancers. After spending the summer at the Art Institute in San Miguel de Allende in Mexico, Nancy embraced the beauty and imagery in native Southwestern art. This influence was then combined with her own spiritual practice upon entering the Franciscan Order in 1967.

Using distinctive color, powerful symbols and archetypal figures, Nancy’s paintings illustrate the sacredness that is all around us and highlight our responsibility to our world. Frequently she paints images of the moon, sun, water, mountains, vessels and trees. These natural symbols create a rich metaphorical landscape that touches her audience emotionally and spiritually. Her paintings seek to dissolve barriers of culture and creed, while revealing patterns of connectedness to enlighten, transform and heal our separateness. As the artist states, “Through the use of figures, as well as, patterns, associations and symbols, I map out stories around events, reflections on nature, our cosmic journey and our human joys and struggles. This allows patterns of connectedness to emerge and wholeness to be revealed.”

Nancy Earle earned her masters degree in art at Montclair University in New Jersey. Her work has appeared in numerous galleries, divinity schools, libraries, theater foyers, and retreat centers around the United States. She has won exhibition and literary awards throughout her career. Her paintings have appeared in *ANIMA* and *The Other Side* magazines, as well as Joan Chittister’s book, *Heart of Flesh: A Feminist Spirituality for Women and Men* (2000).

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”.