



For Immediate Release
June 2014

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Exhibition ***Bioperversity*** Opens at Clare Gallery

Hartford — The Clare Gallery is pleased to present ***Bioperversity***, an exhibition of ink drawings by artist Jane Rainwater. The drawings disclose our culture's relationship with violence by masking it within the beauty of nature. The exhibition consists of works from the series *Botanical Tyranny*, *Insect Insurrection*, and *Birds of Prey*. All the drawings are seductively constructed with familiar subject matter and high contrast shapes in black and white. This exhibition is free and open to the public and extends from August 21–October 19, 2014. A reception will be held on September 26th, from 6:30–8:30 p.m. At the reception, Rainwater will discuss her desire to explore our culture's intersection of beauty and ugliness and how it is connected to human nature.

Our culture has a long tradition of presenting beautiful images at the expense of the natural world, e.g. the work of John James Audubon, scrimshaw, African Ivory Art, and Fashion's use of natural materials. We are attracted to beautiful things. Rainwater's artwork speaks of a dark undercurrent of "cultural reckoning" and forces us to look beneath the surface of beauty and "natural" forms to see an economy of death and violence to which we all too often turn a blind eye.

Her images historically reference classical nature illustrations, Victorian silhouettes, wallpaper and prints of natural history. However, Rainwater's images are constructed out of the machinery of death: axes, scimitars, guns, grenades, and other weaponry and symbols of war. As a result of this "drawing mash-up," she asks us to question our measured response to violence and the business of violence. The images challenge our attraction to beautiful things and the darker truth of our culture.

Jane Rainwater grew up in Westport, CT and currently lives in Andover, CT. She teaches art and design at several colleges and universities in Connecticut. She is also the owner of Rainwater Design. She holds a MFA from Lesley College of Art and Design, and a BFA from The Hartford Art School. Rainwater received a Radius Emerging Artist Fellowship from The Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art in Ridgefield, CT. She has exhibited in galleries and museums throughout the country. More information can be found at her website: janerainwater.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, click "Community Life" and then "Clare Gallery."