



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

## ***Spiritual Dynamism: Works on Paper by Susan Spaniol***

Hartford — The Clare Gallery is pleased to present *Spiritual Dynamism: Works on Paper by Susan Spaniol*. This exhibition is free and open to the public and extends from April 4–May 23, 2013. A reception will be on Tuesday, April 30, 2013 from 5–7 p.m. Susan Spaniol will discuss how the medium of drawing represents the spiritual dynamics of nature.

In this exhibition, we enjoy two different series, *Herring Cove* and *Constructed Worlds*. Both series are boldly placed in the context of contemporary drawing and appear to be within the realm of abstraction. But all her works originate from direct experience in the natural world. Spaniol believes her works are visual odes to the spiritual forces of nature. Her connection to the physical and natural world is extremely important for she sees the medium of drawing as a metaphor. Spaniol states, “Drawing represents the spiritual dynamics of nature, it is a natural act, as instinctive as ‘drawing’ a breath. Mark-making is one of the most ‘natural’ means of human expression.”

The *Herring Cove* series relates to the destructive aspects of nature. It was inspired when Spaniol came upon a battered whale carcass beached on Cape Cod by forceful wind and waves. She describes the sky as “steely grey” and water as “tinged with pink” from the blood of the animal. People observed in silence “like participants in a silent holy vigil.” Spaniol returned to her studio creating spontaneous, luminous shapes and in time she realized the shapes were a visual metaphor of the whale’s spirit.

The *Constructed Worlds* series reflects Spaniol’s focus on the life energy of the natural world “from the cellular to the celestial level.” She pushes the works’ sense of space by utilizing collage, paper inlays and additional layered drawing. Spaniol’s investigations of the natural world—from the micro to macro—move seamlessly within each work.

Susan Spaniol was a writer at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts; an art therapist focused on the creative abilities of abused children and adults with severe mental illness; the Associate Editor of the journal, *Art Therapy*; a full-time faculty member and Associate Professor in Lesley University’s Expressive Therapies Division; the Coordinator of Lesley’s Art Therapy Program; and a Senior PhD Advisor in their PhD Program. Now a full-time artist living in West Hartford, CT, Spaniol has exhibited works on paper in over 30 exhibitions over the past two years, earned numerous awards, and is represented in private collections. She also teaches at Springfield College and the West Hartford Art League. Further information can be found at [susanspaniol.com](http://susanspaniol.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](http://www.spsact.org), click “Community Life” and then “Clare Gallery”.