



For Immediate Release
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Contact: Catherine Wynn
chat_cat@cox.net

Exhibition ***Aspirations and Limitations*** Opens at Clare Gallery

Hartford — The Clare Gallery is pleased to present ***Aspirations and Limitations: Artwork by Hall High School Students***. The exhibition features artistic works dealing with questions of identity and cultural expectations placed on students by themselves and others. The exhibition presents painting and mixed media by eight highly creative students. This exhibition is free and open to the public and extends from January 19–March 18, 2016. **A panel discussion and reception will be held on Sunday, January 24th, from 11:30 am–1:30 pm** where many students will discuss their concepts and processes. (Snow date is Sunday, January 31st, 11:30 am–1:30 pm.) Siena Kremidas curated the exhibition and was instrumental in providing the leadership to the artistic group.

Many of the works use symbolism to present strong emotions. Pressure to measure up, unsteadiness, vulnerability, growth, being molded, body image, obligations, judgments, anxiety and tension, rebelliousness, and confidence are many of the feelings teenagers deal with on a daily basis. They are confronted with these issues directly (from others physically or virtually) and indirectly through media dissemination. The artworks are large and small in scale. Additionally, each artwork shares a short artist bio and conceptual intent with the audience.

The following artists are exhibiting: Hannah Applebaum, Sophia Arian, Daisy Li, Grace E. Percival, Dora Xu, Esmey Xu, Jimmy Zhao, Aida Zhu. The Clare Gallery is committed to providing educational opportunities to artists, the parish community and beyond. This exhibition furnishes Hall High students with a space to build an exhibition based on a theme they feel is connected to the Gallery's mission, as well as important to their art-making. Siena Kremidas facilitated all facets of the exhibition—from dealing with contracts, to gathering the artists and curating the exhibition, writing the artist statement, and moderating the panel discussion. She comments on her involvement, "I joined The Clare Gallery board in June of 2014. Not only did I want to be part of a ministry as an extension to my Confirmation at St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church, but I also was interested in learning more about the workings of an art gallery...The artistic ministry environment inspired me to gather teens to share their creative voices. I hope that my first, solo curated show, *Aspirations and Limitations*, inspires you to connect with eight teenagers' visions."

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 in Saints Lot. The facility is handicapped accessible. More information may be found at spsact.org/clare2.