

CLARE

GALLERY

at the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry

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Exhibition *The Power of Words* Opens at Clare Gallery

Hartford — The Clare Gallery is pleased to present *The Power of Words*. This exhibition will begin with a performance by Artist Susan Kapuscinski Gaylord on January 14, 2017. During the performance, large-scale calligraphic words will be written on paper with fluid acrylic paint. These drawings (or artifacts of the performance) will be attached to the gallery walls.

The artifacts produced during the performance will be exhibited from January 15– March 10, 2017. **An opening reception and artist talk will be held on Sunday, January 15, 1–3 p.m.** Gaylord will speak about her performance, her creative process, and her belief in the power of words to inspire, comfort, connect, and create personal and communal change. The performance, exhibition, and opening reception/artist talk are free and open to the public.

Gaylord has a long history of working with words. Sometimes her words are visible and legible. In other cases, they're more hidden and metaphorical. Gaylord creates works in both two and three-dimensional formats. In previous two-dimensional artwork, she uses traditional Japanese sumi ink and a brush to create rhythmic lines against energetic colors. In her three-dimensional *Spirit Books*, she uses natural materials (driftwood, thread, handmade paper) to create works meant to be “read” as books holding faith and belief—for use in meditation. Instead of actual words in the books, there's a sense of knowledge and an embedded “universal truth.”

This concept of a universal truth can be expressed in many ways. Gaylord likes to quote the 16th century French Renaissance philosopher, Michel Eyquem de Montaigne: “I quote others to better express myself.” In this exhibition, she will write quotes on large-scale hanging paper. The quotes are a source of renewal for her. Each time she reads them, they speak to her with fresh energy. She believes in the communal nature of things and feels a deep connection across time and space with others on this earth. By utilizing quotes in this exhibition, she hopes others will also be affected by the power of words.

Gaylord's love of words led her to the study of English Literature, which in turn brought her to calligraphy. Ten years of calligraphic work were followed by a deep involvement in book art, both as a maker and a teacher. In recent years, she has returned to calligraphy with a more relaxed spirit and takes great joy in the writing.

Susan Gaylord's work is in the library collections of the Museum of Modern Art, Bowdoin College, Wellesley College, Yale University, and the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County. It has been featured in many magazines and books. Additionally, her work has been shown nationally and internationally in Korea. More information can be found at her [website: susangaylord.com](http://susangaylord.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; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays; and 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Sundays. The Gallery and all related events are open to the public. Free parking is available directly across from the church in the Saints Lot. The facility is handicapped accessible. More information may be found at spsact.org/clare2.