

CLARE

GALLERY

at the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry

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

Exhibitions ***A Glimpse of Infinity*** and ***Healing Art*** opens at Clare Gallery

Hartford — The Clare Gallery is pleased to present ***A Glimpse of Infinity***, an exhibition of photographic prints by Vero Beach, Florida artist, Aric Attas. The images are large, voluminous in detail, rhythmically circular, and integrate celestial colors from space. When viewed individually, or as a group, they create a meditative environment. While gazing at the images, the viewer is asked to reflect on the creation of the world, our relationship to it, and each other. This exhibition is free and open to the public and extends from October 14 to December 31, 2017. **A reception will be held on Saturday, October 14th from 5–7 p.m.** At the reception, Attas will discuss his study of Kabbalah, how being a cancer survivor has influenced his artistic journey, and how science and spirituality are mutually beneficial in the creation of his artistic work.

Kabbalah is a Jewish mystical tradition with teachings that have inspired a broad spectrum of people of faith. The ancient wisdom of Kabbalah encourages us to look beyond surface appearances and delve deeper seeking the divine spark in others and the world in which we live. Study of Kabbalah can reveal a sense of oneness—a sense of non-dualistic unity of all things including the Divine. After surviving cancer, Attas became interested in studying Kabbalah for its optimism, timelessness, and the practice of how to replace chaos with unity, love and fulfillment.

Attas has always been interested in both the Arts and Sciences. He has studied astronomy, philosophy, and photography. He wishes to understand how the universe works and how, as humans, we find our place and meaning. Much of his earlier creative work echoes images of space, relativity, quantum physics, string theory, and chance. About 6 years ago, Attas intensified his Kabbalah practice and it began influencing his creative work. This exhibition, in the lobby gallery, of his most current work reflects his meditative practice through the use of photography.

Photography uses light to capture and reveal unseen things. Kabbalah is a practice of revealing the unknown. Attas combines both. He comments on this union, “Photography provides a vehicle for exploring the unknowable. Driven by curiosity I invite the unexpected as I explore the ordinary with the extraordinary in mind. Meditation and study of Kabbalah have revealed places of profound wisdom and peace, science has shown me places of mystery and wonder. My images seek to express these experiences which lie beyond words or literal representation.”

Aric Attas grew up in West Hartford, Connecticut and currently lives in Vero Beach, Florida. Along with exhibiting his artwork, he teaches photography courses and creativity workshops at the Vero Beach Museum of Art and is a greatly sought after commercial photographer of hi-end architecture, product and food. Attas received a MFA from The University of Hartford, Hartford Art School. More information can be found at his website: photonlab.com

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Additionally, in Room C Gallery, the Clare Gallery is pleased to present the exhibition ***Healing Art*** paintings of Windsor, Connecticut artist, Irene Hilbert. Many years ago, Hilbert attended a series of workshops based on Julia Cameron's book, *The Artist's Way*, which explores creativity as a practice and a philosophy. She also survived breast cancer and finds the practice of making art restorative.

Hilbert believes creativity is life's energy and God's gift to us. Being open to its power can reveal powerful changes to one's life. Hilbert states, "I paint for the joy I feel when creating art and for its transformational and healing capabilities."

Hilbert will be conducting a creativity workshop on Saturday, November 18th 10–11:30 a.m. Registration is free, but required. Please contact the Clare Gallery with any questions, or to register at 860-756-4034, or email pcurtis@spsact.org.

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/clare2.