

# CLARE

## GALLERY

at the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry

For Immediate Release  
November 2017

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### **Exhibition *The Mayan Cycle* opens at Clare Gallery**

Hartford — The Clare Gallery is pleased to present ***The Mayan Cycle***, an exhibition of paintings by Hartford, Connecticut artist Gersóhn. *The Mayan Cycle* is a series of large-scale paintings filled with symbolism, patterns, and beautiful rich colors. They are interpretations of daily Mayan life, rituals, and mythology. The exhibition is from January 11 through March 11, 2018. **A reception will be held on Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup> from 2:30–4:30 p.m.** At the reception, Gersóhn will discuss his interest in Mayan culture, why this series is especially important to his identity, and how being a self-taught artist informs his work.

We all can understand cycles of life. In New England, we have seasonal changes. Biology teaches us how all of earth's beings are connected for survival. We come together for a birth, or death, with family, friends, and our spiritual communities. And, some of us look into our own heritage—our ancestral cycle of life—for understanding of who we are and how we connect to them.

The Mayan culture has a long tradition of utilizing scribes to document beliefs, observations of the skies, rituals, and the beauty they witnessed on a daily basis—their cycles of life. In this exhibition, Gersóhn, becomes a “visual scribe” to visually narrate the stories of Mayan cultural traditions.

Gersóhn is a self-taught artist who explores his Mayan background. He is most interested in how his present life (filled with American culture and media) connects to his ancestry and its mythology. His approach is to be present and thoughtful about his daily activities and to think about how they could be interpreted through Mayan mythology and symbolism. The painting, *Heart of the Sky*, depicts the Mayan god as maker of lightning, thunder and smoke. Is it a response to a storm the artist has witnessed? Is the painting, *Sacrifice*, an interpretation of a book about the world suffering from war and famine? Is the painting, *The Rabbit and the Moon*, a personal celebration of a new baby in the family? The series allows viewers to learn about the Mayan mythological cycles and begs for answers to questions about the artist. Additionally, it asks viewers to make connections to their own life cycles.

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](http://www.spsact.org/clare2).