

CLARE

GALLERY

at the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry

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Exhibition *Adeebah: My Life, My Story* opens at Clare Gallery

Hartford — The Clare Gallery is pleased to present *Adeebah: My Life, My Story*, an exhibition of drawings by Adeebah Alnemar. Adeebah sees herself as an artist, a woman, and a mother. She is a Syrian refugee from Homs, Syria. Adeebah is a self-taught artist and her work addresses themes of the tragedy of war and displacement, beauty amidst turmoil, and her hope for peace. The exhibition is from March 19 through May 18, 2018. **A reception and panel discussion will be held on April 10th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.** During the panel discussion, the artist will speak about her work and life's journey; Jake Halpern, author and writer for numerous magazines, including *The New York Times Sunday Review*, will speak about his graphic novel series "Welcome to the New World;" and Michael Sloan, award-winning illustrator of this graphic novel, will speak on the process of visualization.

Have you ever wondered how you would feel leaving your homeland, because you feared for your safety, perhaps never to return? What would you bring? How would you carry it? Adeebah, might have thought about what she would physically transport, but her work brings to light additional ideas on what one can bring mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. Through her work, she negotiates concepts of fear and uncertainty, juxtaposed with physical freedom and freedom of identity. Nature as mother and protector, is seen through her use of symbols. You're also able to witness how a woman, allowed to express herself without any type of fear, is transformed into a stronger, more confident person. If you've ever doubted whether art can transform the self, Adeebah's work will help you see how the journey of a Syrian refugee is a journey about discovering one's visual voice.

Jake Halpern is an author, journalist, and radio producer. In 2016, he was commissioned by *The New York Times* to create a nonfiction graphic novel. He worked with illustrator, Michael Sloan, and began a series about a Syrian family that journeyed to the United States on Election Day in 2016. His characters arrive in one country only to realize that, after the election, they've begun their new lives in another. The series is called "Welcome to the New World." You can find it at nytimes.com/newworld.

This exhibition will also be part of Slow Art Day on Saturday, April 14th, 4 to 5 pm. Slow Art Day is a global event with a simple mission: to help more people discover for themselves the joy of looking at and loving art. The Clare Gallery is hosting an event. Please see the website slowartday.org for more info, or contact Pat Curtis at pcurtis@spsact.org for details.

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.