

CLARE

GALLERY

at the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry

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Exhibition, *The Mary Paintings* by Catherine Steinberg, Opens at Clare Gallery

Hartford, CT — The Clare Gallery will continue with its “Year of the Woman” exhibitions. The next exhibition will be *The Mary Paintings: Expressions of the Divine Feminine*, created by artist Catherine Steinberg. It opens November 1 and runs until December 4, 2019. **An artist talk and reception will be held on Thursday, November 7, 6 – 8 p.m.** The artist talk and reception are free and open to the public. Additionally, the artist will conduct a **shamanic painting workshop on Saturday, November 9, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.** For registration and information on the workshop, please [contact Patricia Curtis at pcurtis@spsact.org](mailto:pcurtis@spsact.org). There is a fee for the workshop.

Catherine Steinberg began painting with acrylics and oils 25 years ago. She considers the painting process to be her meditation and therapy. She believes color and light have transformative powers and can aid in healing. In this exhibit, *The Mary Paintings* were conceived through dreams and shamanic journey work in 2011. They were inspired by readings about Mary Magdalene and Steinberg’s work with women in psychotherapy and the expressive arts. Through the process of working and meditation, Steinberg received information from within herself that guided her to explore the Divine Feminine. Steinberg states:

I have found that light and energy vibrations from colors and shapes can help change moods, alter self-limiting perceptions and open our psyches for change and growth.... The images came to me about a week apart and each painting was completed in about three hours. The messages for the paintings were revealed to me about a year after the completion of the paintings.

Dynamic flow and rhythm are the primary design principles of *The Mary Paintings*. Furthermore, the robust motion utilizes strong colors, which are rich, unrelenting, and saturated. There is constant movement exhibited by the brush strokes and the directionality of form. This movement is bold. It creates the feminine figure as it moves through space. There is no need for faces, hands, or feet. The curvilinear motion creates shape, leading us to believe these forms are charismatic women. When viewing the works, one tends to get swept up, almost feeling the rush of energy emerging from the paintings.

Steinberg has studied with Italian artist, Alexander Shundi, at the Wooster Art School in Danbury, Connecticut and Arts On The Lake, Carmel, New York. She has studied with Susan Ferri of Santa Fe, NM and, more recently, with Gwen Fox of Taos, New Mexico. Steinberg has been a licensed Marriage & Family Therapist since 1983 and currently works with couples and individuals in her Guilford, Connecticut office. She is also a Shamanic Practitioner. More information can be found at her website: catherinensteinberg.com

The Mary Paintings exhibit is on long-term loan to the Mercy by the Sea Retreat and Conference Center in Madison, Connecticut. The Clare Gallery wishes to thank the Mercy Center for allowing the Gallery to exhibit this series.

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.