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Contact: Catherine Wynn
chatcat141@gmail.com

Clare Gallery Opens with *Haiti, Land of Beauty* by Patricia Brintle

Hartford, CT — The Clare Gallery will open its doors and invite the public to view this fall's new exhibition *Haiti, Land of Beauty*. These stunningly colorful works by Haitian artist Patricia Brintle will be presented "Salon Style" for maximum effect immersing the audience in the culture of Haiti. This exhibition is from October 17 to November 30, 2021. The public may visit the Gallery to view the artwork—masks are required. An hour-long virtual artist talk and Q&A will be held on Tuesday, November 16, at 7 p.m. Registration is required through the Gallery website.

Over the past 11 years, Haiti has endured two major earthquakes. We have seen the destruction, though the spirit of life and the energy of the Haitian people continues to touch us. We think, "How can its people endure so much? How can they survive?" Artist Patricia Brintle provides a glimpse of her people's spirit and love of their culture through her artwork and its purposeful presentation. "Salon Style" is a way of curating an exhibition where many paintings are hung to saturate the audience with imagery. There is an explosion of color, shape, and culture in this exhibition. You can't help but feel the beauty of the land, their energy to live, and the spirit of the people. Connection to the Haitian people is particularly dear to St. Patrick - St. Anthony Church since it embarked on a covenant with a sister parish, St. Genevieve Church in Fouji, Zoranje, Haiti, in 2005. This relationship builds a bridge between the churches and provides financial support for St. Genevieve's parish and school.

Brintle was born in Haiti and has lived in the United States since 1964. She is a self-taught artist and believes this allows her the freedom to express her creativity in a particular way—by listening to her native culture as her muse. In her paintings, you see saturated color, textures, organic and geometric shapes. You also see symbols communicating a vernacular, or language, unique to Haiti. Some of Brintle's themes explore nuclear disarmament, the Holocaust, and Haitian earthquakes, as well as religious and sensitive subjects. Viewers are encouraged to stay a while and examine the deeper meaning of her visual language.

Patricia Brintle's artwork has been exhibited nationally and internationally. Her work is in collections including the Holocaust Center of Temple Judea in New York, Albert Schweitzer Museum, and the Copelouzos Family Museum in Athens, Greece. Her work graces books published by National Geographic, Cambridge Press, Liturgical Press, and U.S. National Maritime Historical Society. Her artworks were featured in 2015 Golden Globe nominee film *Saint Vincent* and *Killing Jesus*, as well as utilized as props in other TV series. Additionally, Brintle is an inductee in the Haitian Roundtable 1804 List of Haitian-American Changemakers, as well as being a member to several art organizations.

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 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays, and Sundays from 9 to 11:30 a.m. The Gallery is open to the public, masks are required. Free parking is available directly across from the church, and the facility is handicapped accessible.