

# CLARE

## GALLERY

at the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry

For Immediate Release  
January 2026

Contact: Catherine Wynn  
[chat\\_cat@cox.net](mailto:chat_cat@cox.net)

### **New Exhibit: *Inspired Assemblages*, January 15 – March 15, 2026**

Hartford, CT — The Clare Gallery is excited to share our year of exhibits celebrating voices that “were left out” at the founding of our country. Our first exhibit is *Inspired Assemblages*, works by Terese Newman. Programming includes a **virtual artist talk on Thursday, February 5, 7–8 p.m.** and an **artist reception on Sunday, March 15, 2–4 p.m.** Both events are open to the public, with the virtual artist talk registration through the Clare Gallery website.

Terese Newman is an American artist who grew up in a mixed-race Mexican-American household in Southern California. She left for a New England college at age 19, and though she did not find many others with her background, she was able to keep her Mexican roots alive through her artwork. Her memories are filled with Mexican folk music and dancing; delicious homemade food and sweets; as well as highly colorful and diversely patterned clothing and fabric. Newman recalls “loud family celebrations and events, where color was a main ingredient of emotion—mostly the extremes of joyfulness and sorrowfulness.” These memories are the inspiration for her work, creating narratives through their vivid color, play on identity, and symbolic textures, patterns and words.

Newman’s work is filled with symbolism, veneration and humor. She was raised a Catholic, but currently sees herself as spiritual. She believes her connection to a higher power influences her work by guiding, challenging and supporting her creative choices. She regularly uses symbols—guides and spirits, as well as religious symbols (e.g. crosses, wings, saints)—to create works that use reverence, as well as humor to question organized religion and/or power structures that can lead to feelings of victimhood. Her cigar box collages are examples of the play between spirituality and empowerment. Some of Newman’s works include her own female saints: “For many years I felt like a female victim... I have since come to the realization that I can empower myself...my superpower is that I am a creator, and all that I have created is mine, and it's endless. I want to help my fellow Mexican-Americans, but...I believe there's a way to help ALL that need it ...sometimes it's a simple phrase, or a reminder of others who have had some successes.”

Newman’s digital paintings inhabit layered spaces that are filled with intense color, textures and pattern—similar to her cigar boxes. Additionally, they come into being through the creative practice of trusting in a higher power. Newman explains: “These are organic manifestations of internal conversations. They are layered colors and shapes, assembled the same way as the collage cigar boxes. The conversations I have with (internal voice-spirit-beings-angels-higher self-etc.) are simply goading me on to uncover or unveil that which already exists.” The interplay between both bodies of work helps Newman keep her Mexican-American roots alive and close to her heart.

Newman has a MFA from The University of the Arts, Philadelphia, PA and BFA from University of Connecticut. She has worked as assistant to Sol LeWitt, and has developed her own successful creative art and design business based in Windsor, CT. Newman has exhibited in NYC, New Mexico, and Connecticut. Her works are in the collections of The Bruce Family; Sol LeWitt Collection; Shenan Collection; and dozens of collections throughout the U.S. Visit her website [teresenewmanart.com](http://teresenewmanart.com)

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.– 4 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays, and Sundays from 9 –11:30 a.m. The Gallery is open to the public. Free parking is available directly across from the church, and the facility is accessible to all. More information may be found at [spsact.org/clare2](http://spsact.org/clare2).