

# CLARE

## GALLERY

at the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry

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### **New Exhibit: *My Narrative*, March 19 – May 10, 2026**

Hartford, CT — The Clare Gallery is honored to exhibit the collage fiber art of Connecticut artist, Linda F. Martin. It is our second exhibition celebrating “Voices Left Out at the Founding of Our Country,” which is intended to celebrate our country’s 250th (semi-quincentennial) Anniversary from 1776–2026. *My Narrative* opens March 19. A **virtual artist talk is on Monday, March 23, 7–8 p.m.**, and an **artist reception is Sunday, April 12, 1–3 p.m.** The public is welcome, but registration for the virtual artist talk is required through our website.

Martin has worked with fabrics much of her entire life. She appreciates their vast diverse patterns, textures, colors, and designs. Over the years, she loved the arts and regularly modified fabrics for her own clothing and home decor. In 2010, being inspired by Hartford Stage’s production of *Gee’s Bend*, along with the beauty of *Gee’s Bend* quilts, and the quilters themselves, she committed to creating her first quilt. Since then, Martin has developed her unique artistic voice through collage fiber art. One could say she “paints” with fabric—its colors, designs, and textures—making work that speaks about her own lived experience, as well as the lives of others she chooses to portray. Her work is a testament to the history of quilting, as well as the future of collage fiber art, where the only material she utilizes is from the world of textiles.

Upon retirement, Martin was ready to embrace quilting and textile collage to enable her to share her own hidden gifts and stories. Through her work, she intends to create a conversation with her audiences explaining that it speaks to “who I am, where I come from, what I see, and where I am going.” For *My Narrative*, Martin continues, “the pieces that I chose for this exhibit allow me to tell stories of my family, my spiritual belief and my political standing in this country.” She believes she is speaking and sharing her truth through her artwork.

Martin wishes to “Lift up the Gift,” which is her mantra. She shares, “I believe that if we give homage to God by lifting up our gifts to God, they will be blessed and multiplied.” These gifts are shared in many ways through the Clare Gallery exhibition—from the intricate and beautiful artwork, to the stories Martin reveals, to the sharing of the creative process she has expertly developed in her creative practice.

Linda F. Martin, a Hartford, CT, native, began her journey as a collage fiber artist after a successful career in education administration. She has studied and is mentored by Edjohnetta Miller. Additional classes with Bisa Bulter and Susan Carlson have broaden her technical means of expression. Her quilts have been shared in group and solo exhibitions, been included in virtual and traveling exhibitions, been published, won awards, and are included in private collections. You can find more information on Linda F. Martin through her website: [www.coloredgirlart.com](http://www.coloredgirlart.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).