

# Mary Gallagher

At 14 years of age, Mary registered for a summer art class at Mater Dei Catholic high school in NJ, inspired by a red-haired nun wearing blue mohair dresses and bauble beads. She found a haven and a form of personalized community activism in that art department, not unlike what she later encountered at UW-Madison and CUNY Brooklyn.

For her, Catholicism and environmentalism are both global, ancient, and focused on well-being. The vast infrastructure of the Church is a perfect vehicle to convey messages via art of care for our common home, the Earth, and the salvation of our own and other species.

Her small landscapes reflect the sacred all around us. Each landscape is inscribed with a phrase from Laudato Si, Pope Francis' 2015 Encyclical devoted to protecting the environment and cherishing our planet like "a sister with whom we share our life, a mother who opens her arms to embrace us".

The small animal duets each depict an animal that has become extinct due to pollution, habitat destruction, or greed; also portrayed is its transition from life on Earth as a species, or its Ascension.

