New Photography Exhibition "Variations on a Theme" Explores the Harmony Between Image and Print at Beachwood Library

Medina County photographer Georg Kremer and fine art printer Gus Zimmerman exhibit prints on over a dozen fine art papers, most displayed without glass, December 6–24.

BEACHWOOD, Ohio — November 5, 2026 — Medina County photographer Georg Kremer and fine art printer Gus Zimmerman announce the opening of "Variations on a Theme," a collaborative photography exhibition. The show runs from December 6 through December 24, 2026, at the Beachwood Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library, located at 25501 Shaker Blvd., Beachwood. An opening reception will be held on Sunday, December 6, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. The exhibition is free and open to the public and can be viewed during regular library hours.

Ansel Adams once wrote that "the negative is comparable to the composer's score and the print to its performance." "Variations on a Theme" takes him at his word. In this exhibition, each photograph serves as the score. The fine art papers it is printed on act as the instruments, and the hands that bring the image to life are the musicians.

"Printing the same photograph on two different papers is like hearing one piece of music played by two orchestras," said Georg Kremer. "I wanted visitors to see both performances side by side."

"Glass hides what makes each paper special," said Gus Zimmerman. "Without it, you can see the texture of the cotton rag, the depth of the baryta, and the fibers of the washi. The paper becomes part of the picture."

For this exhibition, Georg Kremer and Gus Zimmerman selected over a dozen museum-quality papers the same way a composer chooses instruments. A bright cotton rag carries the high, clear notes of a morning landscape, while a deep baryta holds the low register of a black-and-white print. Japanese washi papers add a distinct texture, similar to a solo voice entering over an ensemble. Most prints will hang without glass and be lit from above, so visitors can see each paper's surface as the artists intended.

Before a single print was made, Georg Kremer and Gus Zimmerman tuned each instrument. Rather than relying on manufacturers' stock settings, they built custom color profiles for every paper, investigating the technical properties of each surface — from paper whiteness and texture to how it holds ink, color, and deep shadow detail. The prints on view are the result of that hands-on study.

The visual music is drawn from a broad repertoire of landscape and architectural studies, infrared photographs, and illusionistic visions. A series on unusual architecture includes Wellington Town Hall, Cleveland's Franklin Castle, Mac-O-Chee Castle, and

Fonthill Castle. Other subjects include Union Pacific's "Big Boy" No. 4014, captured in monochrome as it thunders across a river bridge. Highlighting the concept of "variations on a theme," some subjects appear multiple times — in color, in monochrome, or on contrasting papers.

Georg Kremer's work is informed by master photographer-printers such as Ansel Adams, Eliot Porter, Irving Penn, and Jerry Uelsmann. He also draws inspiration from mid-20th-century North American Magic Realism traditions, including American painters Andrew Wyeth, George Tooker, and Robert Vickrey, and Canadian painter Alex Colville.

Following its run in Beachwood, the exhibition is scheduled to travel to other venues in 2027.