**Row House** *Gallery & Custom Framing*

211 Main Street

Milford, OH 45150

**For immediate release**

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**Row House Gallery Presents *Steeling Cincinnati by Robert Coomer – An Exciting Look at Cincinnati Past***

—**Coomer’s *Steeling Cincinnati* willfeature steel prints of the Fontayne & Porter 1848 Cincinnati daguerreotype panorama**—

Milford, OH—May 1, 2017—Row House Gallery & Custom Framing will present *Steeling Cincinnati by Robert Coomer.* This is an exciting look at Cincinnati’s past, as Coomer creates an original interpretation of the 1848 Cincinnati daguerreotype panorama by Charles Fontayne and William S. Porter. The exhibit is the first time the Cincinnati daguerreotype has been printed on steel, using modern techniques while maintaining the feel and emotion of the original plates. Meet Robert Coomer during the opening reception on July 8, 5-7:30 PM at Row House, 211 Main Street, Milford, Ohio 45150. The show will hang through the end of July.

“I create beauty with power tools and a camera,” comments Coomer. “Each of my industrial fine art plates combines photography with the effects of time and decay. It takes 2 to 3 months to age and rust each piece of steel; and another 8 to 12 hours to prepare each panel by sanding to remove the active rust and reveal the pitted marks of time. Once the steel is ready, I use various methods to print the image onto the surface. This process makes each piece unique. The panels are then sealed and float-mounted to wood using distressed bolts to maintain the aged and worn appearance.”

The *Cincinnati Panorama of 1848* represents pioneering, award-winning photographic technology that allows the image to be magnified up to 32X with incredible finite detail. It is the first photograph of the Cincinnati waterfront, showing a two-mile stretch from the Public Landing to the town of Fulton; and, it is the earliest surviving panorama of any American city. The image represents many other noteworthy firsts – the earliest photographic image of inland steamboats, a railroad station and one of the country’s original astronomical observatories. It may also be the first known candid image of free African Americans. In addition, the image illustrates the major growth of Cincinnati – at the time, the fastest growing city in the nation. Historians consider the panorama to be one of the most important American photographs ever taken.

*Steeling Cincinnati* recreates the eight original 8.5” x 6.5” daguerreotype plates as eight 20” x 16” panels. The complete Cincinnati panorama will be over 16 feet long. Robert fell in love with the amazing amount of detail captured in the original, including over 30 steamboats along the riverfront. Seeing all of that detail made him want to produce a larger, more approachable work. He is also creating a set based on 10” x 8” panels, mounted in sets of four for a more manageable size, and for a closer connection to the original plates. Other mountings and configurations, as well as some individual panels, will also be available. The composition and styling of the steel-on-wood art fits a myriad of style themes – from modern to vintage to industrial. Ten percent of sales from the gallery show will support the non-profit Friends of the Public Library organization.

“Row House is excited to work with Robert to bring these historically significant Cincinnati photographs to life again in a very unique way,” says Nancy Meyer, president, Row House Gallery & Custom Framing. “The process is considered a modern reinterpretation of an 1848 historic photograph. Each panel will give buyers a sense that they will own a piece of the original panorama, reflecting the rich history of Cincinnati and its riverfront.”

In conjunction with the gallery show, the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County will host a free, open to the public presentation on Saturday, June 24, starting at 1:00 PM at its 800 Vine Street, Cincinnati location. Christopher Smith, genealogy and local history librarian at the Public Library, will present an informative talk on daguerreotyping and recite stories about the creation of the original 1848 photograph and Cincinnati’s photographic history. Robert Coomer will follow with a discussion of his artistic vision and his Art in Decay series. Visitors will receive a free 2006 poster of the Cincinnati panorama; and will be invited to view the original photograph. A preview of works from the *Steeling Cincinnati* exhibit will be on display.

Row House hours are Tuesday-Thursday 10 AM to 5 PM; Friday 10 AM to 7:00 PM; and Saturday 10 AM to 4 PM.

**About Robert Coomer**

Robert Coomer is an award-winning, internationally known fine art photographer. He holds a degree in Graphic Design from the University of Cincinnati’s College of Design, Art, Architecture and Planning. He is honored to have his work purchased and displayed in homes, offices and institutions from Antwerp to Cincinnati. Coomer lives in Batavia, Ohio.

**About Row House Gallery & Custom Framing**

Row House is a family-owned and operated business owned by Betty Meyer and managed by her daughter, Nancy Meyer. As an award-winning framer, the gallery is dedicated to expert framing craftsmanship. Since 1971, Row House has been located in a circa 1840 row house in the old mill district of Milford at 211 Main Street, Milford, Ohio 45150. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Thursday 10 AM to 5 PM; Friday 10 AM to 7:00 PM; and Saturday 10 AM to 4 PM. For more information, call 513/831-7230 or visit [www.RowHouse.com](http://www.rowhouse.com/). Follow Row House on Facebook at Facebook.com/RowHouseGallery.

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