



THE  
PUBLIC  
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and  
Hamilton County

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## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

REFLECTIONS ON THE

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**RIVER**



The Library Celebrates  
**TALL STACKS**

Lecture with Noted Photographer Andrew Borowiec:  
Main Library, September 7

Photos Flow “Along the Ohio”  
Through Andrew Borowiec’s  
Exhibit on View at the Main  
Library: September 1- October 31

For a dozen years Andrew Borowiec photographed the small towns of the Ohio River valley, documenting signs of historical and cultural forces in the social landscape. Borowiec’s exquisite black and white photographs make an artistic statement about post-industrial American civilization at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. At the same time, they depict the beauty of a region that played a central role in the political economic development of the U.S.

This exhibit, to be held at the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, includes 60 photographs from his book, also titled *Along the Ohio*. The photographs will be on display in the Main Library Atrium from September 1 – October 31. A lecture and book signing with Andrew Borowiec will be held on Sunday, September 7 at 2:00 p.m. at the Main Library in the Huenefeld Tower Room (South Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor).

**FROM THE INTRODUCTION TO *ALONG THE OHIO***

“To take his photographs, I preferred to walk along back alleys, in the belief that the rear of a house tells more about its residents that they might reveal in their front yard. Although there are few pictures with people in them, the human presence is evident in all of these photographs—they capture an environment that has been transformed by its residents.”

“When I began making photographs in the Ohio Valley, much of the industry that had brought prosperity was gone. The factories looming over the landscape lay idle, houses stood boarded up, and rusting machinery littered the river’s edge. Parking lots and gas stations encircled residential enclaves whose situation looked as precarious as that of colonial homesteads, except that now the threat didn’t come from Indians and wild animals, but from inscrutable economic forces. In the neatly mowed lawns and freshly painted fences that adorned dilapidated homes, however, I detected a version of the stubborn persistence with which early settlers had faced life in the wilderness. I began to understand that I was seeing not only signs of depression and decay, but also of endurance and hope. The barbecue grill made from a recycled 55-gallon drum wasn’t simply a curiosity; it was a manifestation of pioneer resourcefulness, an attempt to make the best of things and create some semblance of the American Dream under less than ideal circumstances.” —**Andrew Borowiec**

## **ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHER/AUTHOR**

Andrew Borowiec received his BA in Russian from Haverford College in Pennsylvania (1979) and his MFA in Photography from Yale University (1982). He has worked as a photojournalist, as the staff photographer for the International Center of Photography in New York City, and as the assistant director of workshops for the Rencontres Internationales de la Photographie in Arles, France. He was taught photography at Parsons School of Design, the New School for Social Research, Germantown Academy, and Oberlin College, and he is currently a professor of art at the University of Akron. He has received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Ohio Arts Council, and in 1998 he received a fellowship from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation.

√Information about events at the Main Library and 41 branch libraries is available on the Internet site: [www.CincinnatiLibrary.org](http://www.CincinnatiLibrary.org).

√Interpreter available upon request for the hearing impaired. Please call 369-6944 (TDD 369-6946) at least one week before program.