

**Two of a Kind
Bill Stamats
East Gallery
Nov 2 – Jan 18, 2025**

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Artist Statement:

In music the term “theme and variations” refers to a standard form composition (a melody, perhaps) first presented in its original form and then repeated in new ways.

Visual artists do this, too. A theme becomes a “liberating limit”- a subject matter or approach that can be endlessly reimaged, loosened, tightened, or cast in a changed light.

For me, this is the energy of art. Once perfected, a theme is rife with possibility. A painting bends with the artist’s mood, echoes with the images that came before, and- most profoundly- shifts again in the eyes of each new viewer.

The principle is as clear in two variations as in seven or eight. The artwork presented here are “Two of a Kind”, but individually alive. Each is a distinct and captured moment, a chronicled inspiration, a lingering melody through still air.

Bio:

The path of an artist is seldom direct. We are wanderers — rerouted by endless curiosity, the demands of life, and the pull of new passions.

For me, those detours only clarified the course. Creating has been my magnetic north, guiding me to a point where I can focus more intently on capturing the quiet beauty of the place I call home.

I consider myself a neo-regionalist, embracing and promoting a fresh approach to Midwest art. Too often dismissed as fly-over farmland, the Midwest is alive with everything that is America. Our revered land (both

wild and worked), the weathered icons of our agricultural heritage, and the skies — shifting like seasons from the bluest blue to pink and copper-red.

Reflecting this aesthetic not only honors the Midwest as a place, it elevates the people and the centuries of love and labor that sculpted everything we see.