

GEOFFREY LASKO LIMITED-EDITION "BARC 2002" ETCHING

Black & White or Hand Colored
(For information contact jane@inav.net)

The artist – Geoffrey Lasko, printmaker and printer, is a distinguished contemporary artist educated at the University of Iowa (BFA) and the University of Denver (MFA). His work is exhibited world-wide, including in the collections of the United States Library of Congress, Washington, DC; the IBM Corporation; the Quaker Oats Corporation; USWest; General Atlantic Corporation; Natural History Museum, Denver, CO; Department of Natural Resources, Colorado Division of Wildlife; and the private collections of Placido Domingo, Dionne Warwick, and former President of the United States, William Jefferson Clinton. The artist has been favorably compared to Frank W. Benson and Marguerite Kirmse. For this offering, Lasko has created 200 Limited-Edition black and white etchings, some of which have been hand colored by the artist, exclusively for Bernese Auction Rescue Coalition, Inc. The "BARC 2002" etching is the first in a series of limited-edition collectable fine art that BARC will offer for sale to the public. Funds generated from the sale of these etchings will support rescue efforts.

The dog – With the assistance of Deborah Godfrey, highly-regarded Bernese Mountain Dog fancier with over 25 years in the breed, the image of an "old world" Bernese Mountain Dog was chosen as the subject of the artist's etching. Lasko created several artist's sketches of the dog and then worked with a panel of breed fanciers and BARC board members to arrive at the final etching you see.

The etching and the process of intaglio printmaking – The artist's image is created by first coating the surface of a copper or zinc plate with an acid resistant material called a ground, a mixture of asphaltum and beeswax. The image is then drawn into this ground with a very sharp needle-like tool. The tool is used to scratch through the ground and reveal the plate underneath without actually scratching into the metal. The plate is then placed into a mild acid bath. The acid etches into the plate in those areas where the ground has been removed exposing the metal. The longer the plate is left exposed to the acid, the deeper the acid will etch, resulting in a darker line. Therefore lines exposed to the acid for 10 minutes will be light, while lines exposed to the acid for an hour will be deeper, hold more ink and print very dark. The acid resistant ground is removed with mineral spirits once the etching process is finished. The plate is then inked by hand, placed on the bed of an etching press, covered with a piece of moistened paper and run through the press by hand. The extreme pressure of the press rollers forces the paper into the tiny ink-filled lines and bondsthe ink to the paper creating the print. The paper used is acid-free/ph neutral, mould-made, 100% cotton "Somerset Velvet" paper. Given proper handling this paper will never yellow or change in any way. The artist has hand-numbered, signed, and embossed each etching with his personal seal. A special few of the etchings have been hand-colored by the artist. Each print is a unique work of art because the plate has to be re-inked by hand for each individual print in the edition. The image measures approximately 4" x 6", with a print area of approximately 5" x 7".

The BARC organization – Bernese Auction Rescue Coalition, Inc. (BARC) was founded in 2001 to rescue Bernese Mountain Dog puppies and breeding stock that are at risk because of inadequate veterinary care, genetic defect, malnutrition, poor sanitation, inhumane kenneling, puppy mill liquidation, excessive breeding, neglect or inadequate socialization. To date, BARC has rescued, rehabilitated, sterilized and placed over 200 at-risk Bernese Mountain Dogs.

BARC, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, tax-exempt organization, educates the public and others about the breed, responsible pet purchase and ownership, the special needs of rescues and the ways in which they come into these abusive situations. BARC documents and maintains data on the status and health of the dogs that it rescues and provides support to the families who adopt them throughout the dog's life. The work of BARC is only possible because of the generous support of the Berner-loving public.