

Bateman's World has room for kids

Artist for Kids Gallery exhibits popular Canadian wildlife artist

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BATEMAN'S World, on now through May 11 at the Artists For Kids Gallery, offers rare insight into the work of Canada's best-known wildlife artist.

On exhibit at the gallery, located in the Leo Marshall Curriculum Centre on West 21st St. in North Vancouver, are 47 works of art, representing 60 years of artistic output. All of the large canvases on view in the gallery are on loan from private collectors and family members or are from Bateman's own collection. Also on display are childhood drawings, sketchbooks, travel journals and working models from the artist's own collection.

The show is the first major exhibition in the Lower Mainland of Bateman's work in close to a decade, says Bill MacDonald, managing director of the Artists For Kids (AFK), a North

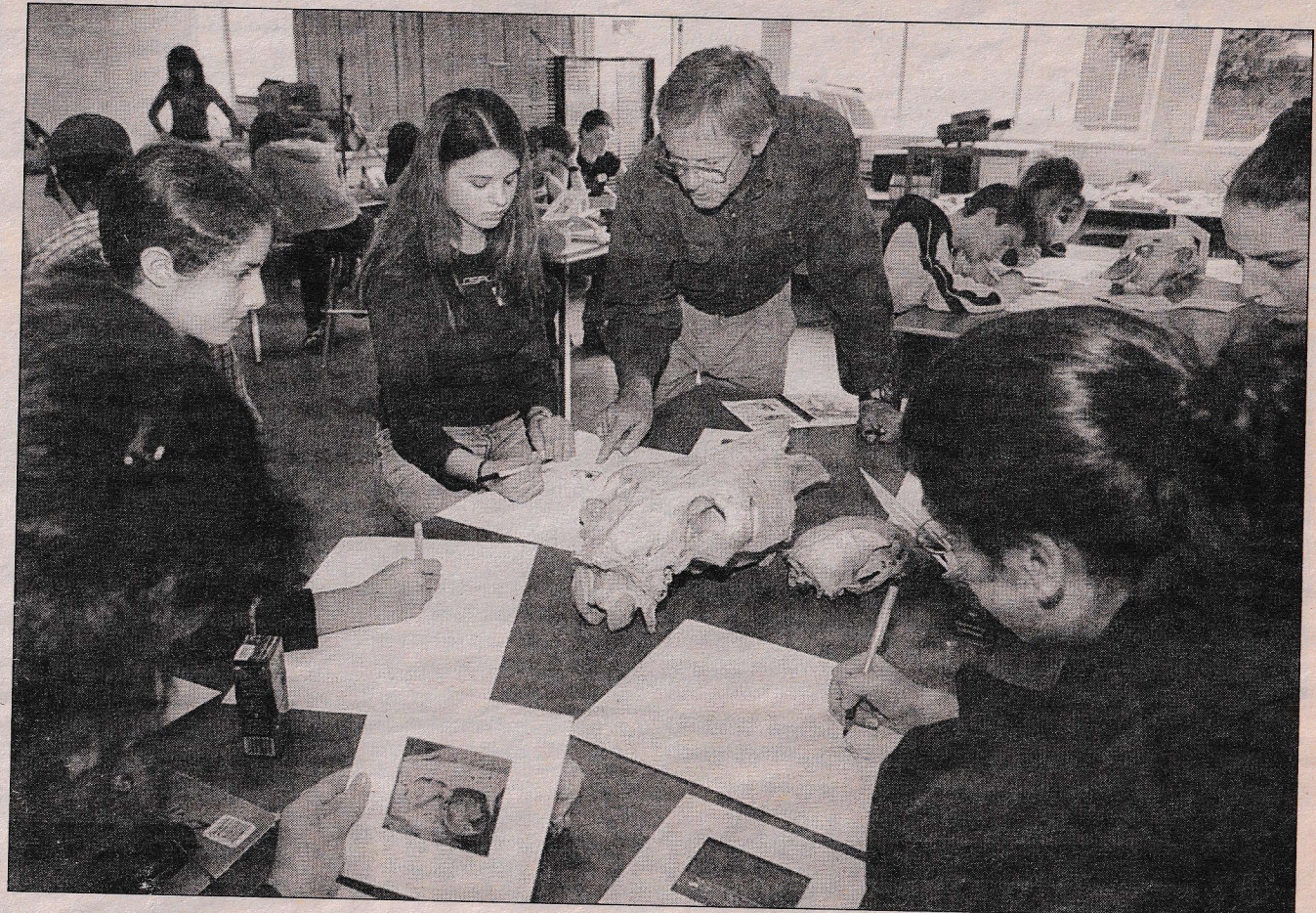
Vancouver-based organization that provides art enrichment programs for elementary and secondary school students.

What distinguishes Bateman from other artists, aside from his keen observation of the natural world and his mastery of colour, line and composition, is that there's an obvious message in all of his work, says

MacDonald, who uses as an example Bateman's painting of a pair of giant petrels menacing a lone albino penguin which carries an

obvious anti-bullying message.

Bateman's message will find a captive audience. Through the course of the show, 3,000 school children will go through the exhibition space, which functions primarily as a teaching gallery, operated by AFK and supported by North Vancouver School



NEWS photos Mike Wakefield

FIFTY students were given the rare opportunity to work closely with wildlife artist Robert Bateman in conjunction with the Artists For Kids exhibition *Bateman's World*, open to the public weekday afternoons and weekends.

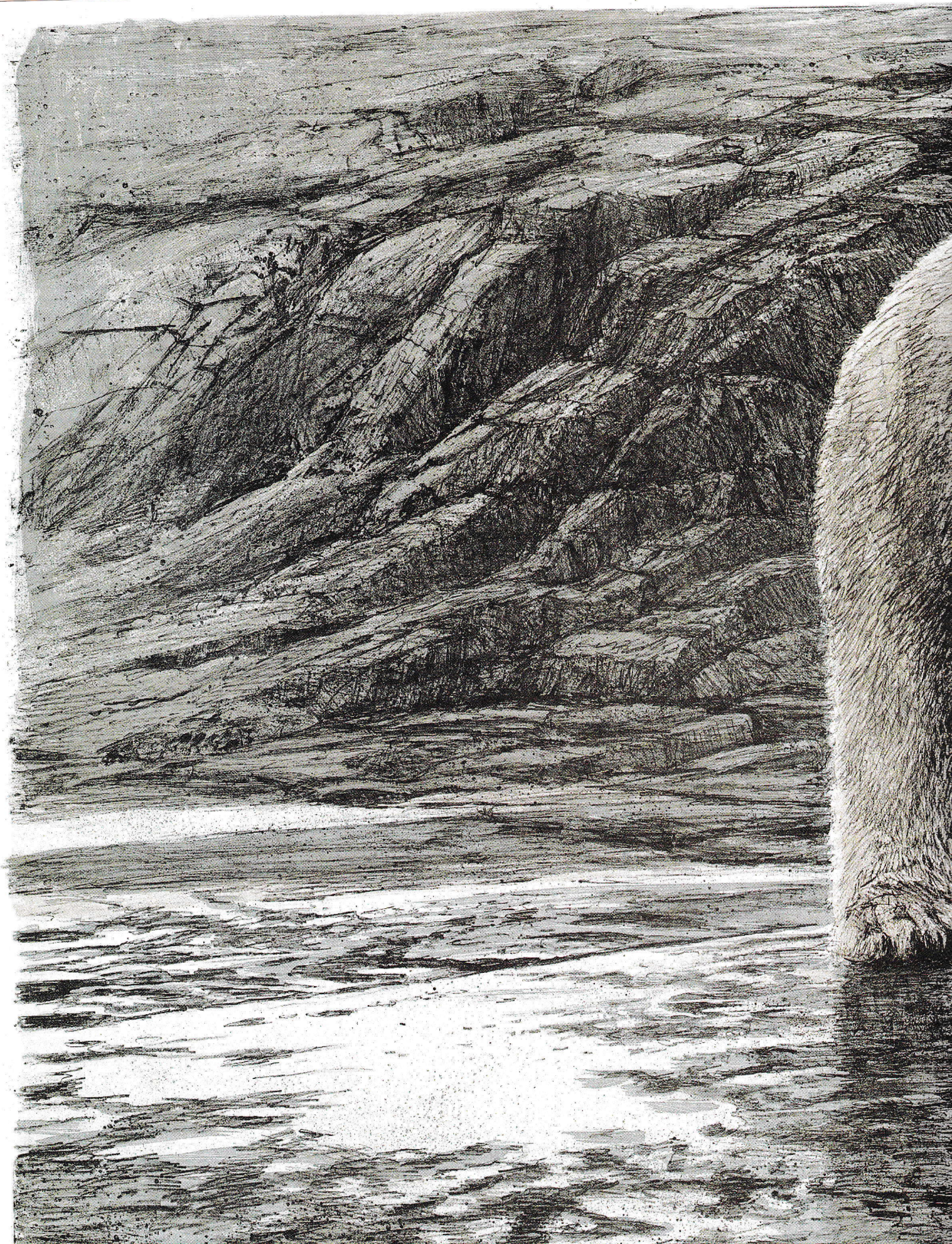
District 44. Fifty students were selected to work on art projects with the artist himself last week and several hundred more were invited to attend an interactive assembly with the artist at Centennial Theatre April 11. The exhibition's 46-page full-colour catalogue doubles as a teacher's guide, with lessons developed by a team of North Shore teachers and designed for use with children of all ages. Grades 2 and 3 students may, for example, undertake the lesson called Printmaking: Ewe Can Do it, developed by Westview elementary-school teacher Yolande Martinello. The assignment uses Bateman's image, "Salt Spring Sheep", as the basis for a discussion on observation and an exercise in drawing texture.

To coincide with the exhibition, AFK has released for sale two new Bateman prints: "Screech Owl in Apple Tree", a hand-coloured lithograph limited to 100 prints and priced at \$500, and "River Otters", also a two-colour lithograph priced at \$500, and limited to 50 publisher's proofs. AFK also has limited numbers of "Great Blue Heron", a five-colour lithograph released by the artist in 1991 and priced at \$2,400. Proceeds from the sale of the prints will be support the continuation of art enrichment programs through AFK, including the popular Paradise Valley Summer School of Visual Art.

Bateman's World is open to the public from 3 to 6 p.m. weekdays and noon to 4 p.m. weekends. Admission is by donation.

An Original Lithograph

by ROBERT BATEMAN





YOUNG GIRAFFE

by Robert Bateman



YOUNG GIRAFFE

Giraffa camelopardalis

I wanted my portrait of this African juvenile to show the vertical thrust of youth. The young giraffe rises from a profusion of grasses, and its patterned, rust-colored spots follow the curve of the neck nearly to the top of the paper. I also wanted to suggest the dust-infused atmosphere of Africa, using blended dry colors of muted gray and saffron in the soft, multi-textured background of this original print. In spite of its size, the giraffe is a strangely delicate animal, therefore, I used rather delicate pastel colors and avoided contrast.

The process of original printmaking appeals to me because it is a human process; it involves no complex optical equipment other than my own eyes. I believe that technology often separates us from nature, and I like the idea that my original prints are made by my hand.

Robert Bateman

YOUNG GIRAFFE

© 1991 Robert Bateman \$1,250.00

290 s/n* (No. ABD61)

Original lithograph printed in four colors.

Overall Print Size: 40" x 20-1/2"

Image Size: 36" x 16"

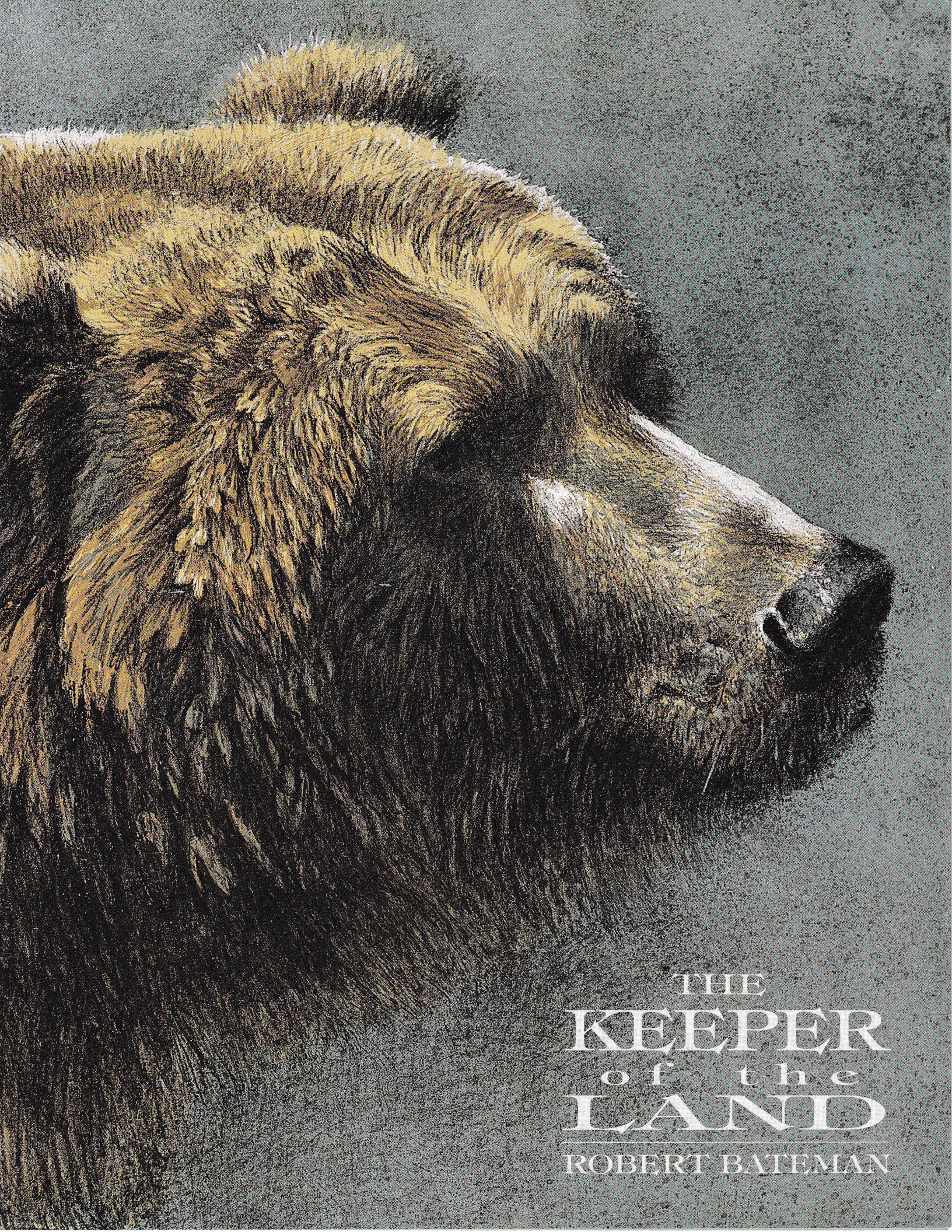
ROBERT BATEMAN

LIMITED EDITIONS

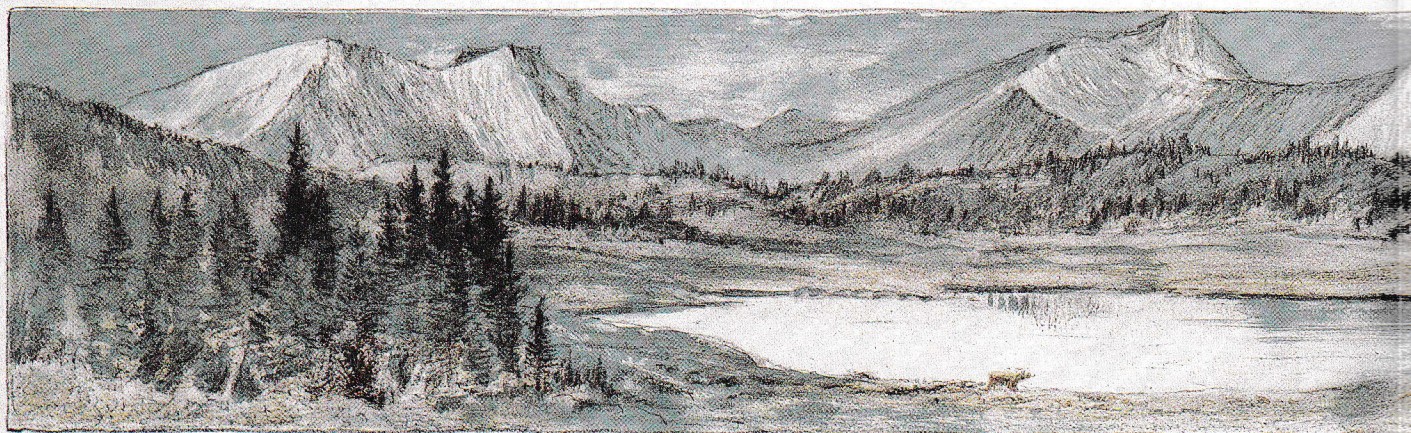


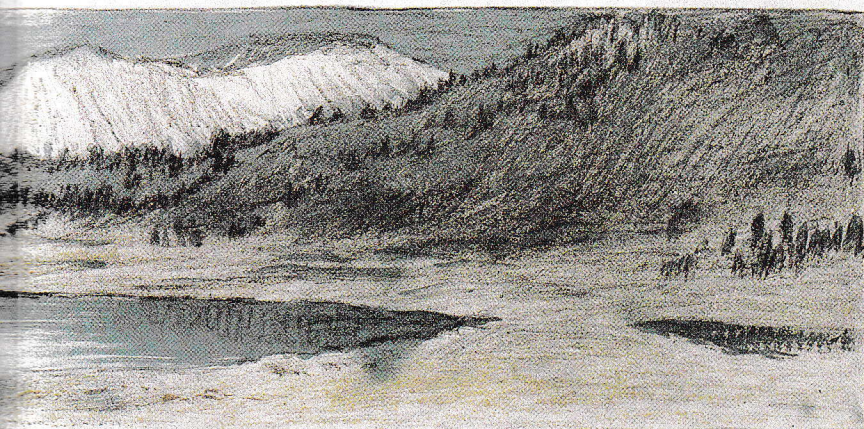
Mill Pond Press

Detail from MANGROVE SHADOW — COMMON EGRET



THE
KEEPER
of the
LAND
ROBERT BATEMAN





It is difficult to talk about this original print in a generic sense as it is so closely connected to what is going on in the Stein River Valley, one of the most beautiful and pristine valleys in British Columbia — probably in all the west coast of North America. The Stein River Valley runs in from the coast of southwest British Columbia to the intersection of the Fraser and Thompson Rivers; all three rivers are rich with salmon. Along the banks of the Stein River are as yet untouched, unspoiled old-growth forests. All kinds of wildlife, including mountain goats, grizzlies and mule deer, live an undisturbed existence there.

The Stein Valley has also been the ancestral headwaters of two Indian bands, the Lytton and the Mount Currie, for thousands of years. Burial caves with pictographs have recently been discovered in the area, so it is a land that is significant and sacred both to the native peoples of British Columbia and to natural history. This sacred place is now slated to be logged. Many people have become concerned about the logging of the Stein Valley. We feel, if it must be logged, that it must be logged carefully. I made this original print to bring attention to the dangers threatening the Stein Valley and its inhabitants.

When I was first planning this original print, I thought a mountain goat would be the most suitable choice of subjects as its white coat would contrast well with the darker background of the piece. I spoke with committee members of the Stein Valley Cultural Centre Project, and my idea was presented to the local native Indian chiefs. The chiefs said, "Oh no, don't let him do a mountain goat; a mountain goat is nothing. Have him do a grizzly because the grizzly bear is the keeper of the land." I said, "Wow, that's great. That's what we should all be — keepers of the land."

What I notice most in nature is its variety — each square inch in a landscape has its own particular texture and sculptural quality. The grizzly is a landscape-like animal; each part of the animal has different qualities. I enjoyed showing the play of light and shade in the textures on his face. I chose a close-up view of the head and shoulders of the grizzly to show the expression of the grizzly's face; he is dignified yet concerned. We all share the grizzly's responsibility of preserving our habitat. I felt that the image at the bottom of this original print was essential as it places the grizzly — the keeper — in his landscape.

Robert Bateman

THE KEEPER OF THE LAND \$4,950.00

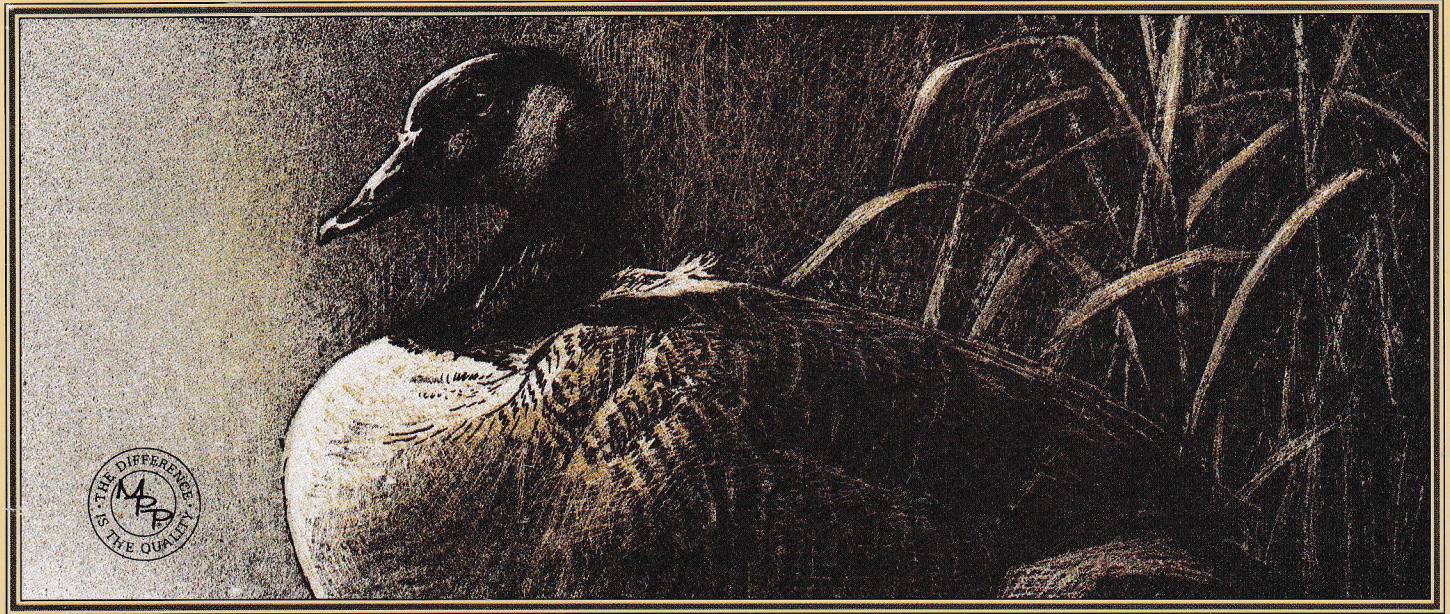
290 s/n* 25" x 33-3/4" (No. ABD40)

Original lithograph printed in four colors.

*plus 23 Artist's Proofs, three Printer's Proofs and a Conservation Edition of 50 original lithographs.

CANADA GOOSE

An Original Lithograph by Robert Bateman



CANADA GOOSE © 1992 Robert Bateman \$670.00

350 s/n* (No. ABD73) Original lithograph printed in three colors.

Overall Print Size: 9-1/4" x 13" Image Size: 3" x 7"

Canada Goose
Branta canadensis

Original printmaking allows artists freedom and fluidity as well as incredible tonal and textural range – maybe that is why I happened to think of the work of the old masters when I made this original print. I recalled in particular the etchings of Rembrandt, which are so evocative of mood and atmosphere.

This Canada goose is just a simple little piece that I made in a tranquil moment. Against a dark background, I used light sparingly to illuminate the essential forms of the goose and the grasses. Perhaps, in its small way, this original print is an homage to Rembrandt's rich and luminous work.

Robert Bateman

Published by

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310 Center Court, Venice, Florida 34292-3505

*350 Signed and Numbered Prints: \$670.00 28 Artist's Proofs: \$804.00 Three Printer's Proofs

75 s/n prints of *Canada Goose* have been donated by the artist to worthy causes.

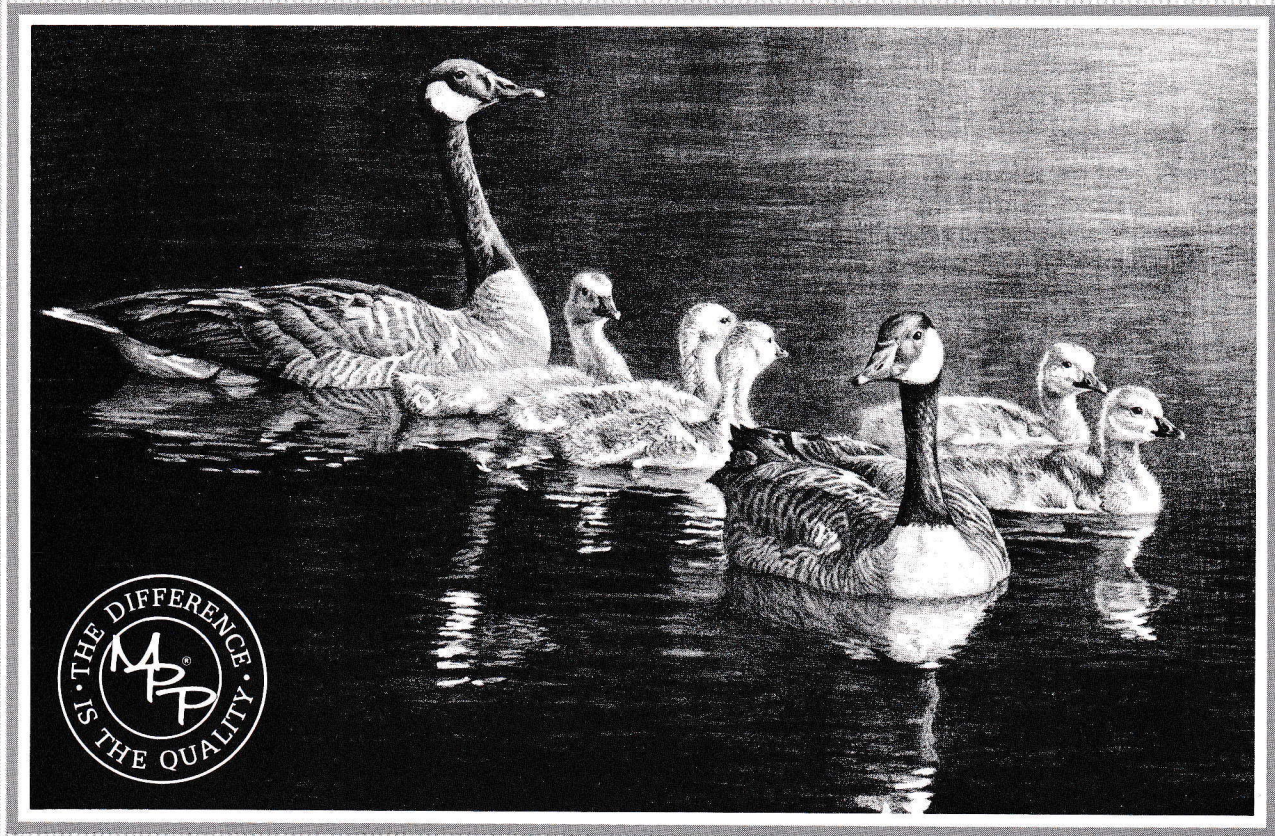
Fewer than half of the Artist's Proofs are available for sale; the others are donated to museums and other institutions.

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INTERNATIONAL All prices include GST. Printed in U.S.A.

NEW RELEASE FROM

© 1985 Robert Bateman



Robert Bateman -

CANADA GEESE FAMILY \$525.00

260 s/n* 17" x 23" (No. ABB97) Original Stone Lithograph

Price subject to change with currency fluctuations.

This is my first published stone litho print. The only other one I have done was a portrait of my wife, Birgit. It is an edition of two. Her mother has one, and we have the other. I very much enjoyed drawing directly on the stone. Its tooth, or texture, gives a solid, warm feel which brings my mind back to the ancient seas in which the stone was formed. I worked gently at first, then rubbed more and more crayon onto the surface. It is possible to build up incredibly rich and velvety blacks.

This is why I chose this subject. In the evening light the water of the river was deep and inky, and the rich black of the necks of the geese seemed to shimmer. This river flows by the house where we used to live, and we were honored to have a pair of Canadas nesting nearby. The parents were secretive about the nest, but when the goslings hatched, they were proudly brought to our lawn which ran to the water's edge. They cut the grass for us with their nibbling, and also, of course, fertilized it. In this picture the young are about quarter grown. They are like a little flotilla with the alert gander bringing up the rear.



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OVER

*260 Signed and Numbered Prints: \$525.00 24 Artist's Proofs: \$630.00 10 Publisher's Proofs: \$630.00

Fewer than half of the Artist's Proofs and Publisher's Proofs are available for sale, as the others are donated to museums and other institutions.

NEW RELEASE FROM **MPP**

© 1988 Robert Bateman



Robert Bateman

PANDAS AT PLAY \$595.00

160 s/n* (No. ABC30) Original Stone Lithograph.

Overall Print Size: 10³/₄" x 22¹/₂" Image Size: 5⁷/₈" x 18"

Prices subject to change with currency fluctuations.

The giant pandas are solitary animals. They live in rough, mountainous terrain and require large quantities of vegetation for their daily fare. One theory for their striking color pattern is that they need to see each other from a long distance in order to avoid competing for food. They usually want to be alone. Of course, males and females sometimes come together. Then for a brief time, they engage in playful, gentle "wrestling matches." I was fortunate enough to witness this behavior with a captive pair. This seems quite comical to most human eyes.

As a wildlife enthusiast, however, I am concerned about breeding success for endangered species, so I hope that this behavior could lead to an increase in the panda population. ■



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*Artist's Proofs and Publisher's Proofs not available on this edition.