



DONALD BAECHLER

A NEW RELEASE FROM PAULSON PRESS

Paulson Press in Berkeley, California is pleased to announce the publication of two new etching projects by Donald Baechler. These prints will be available for release in July 2003.

In his first project at Paulson Press, Donald Baechler completed *Alphabet*, an ambitious project of twenty-six intaglio prints – one of each letter of the alphabet. In this project, he explores how an individual letter, when taken out of the context of language, is transformed into vibrant imagery and abstract form. *Alphabet* conveys a bright and exuberant array of color and diverse graphic style. No two letters are alike as each was meticulously selected from a wide variety of different sources. The letters were enlarged and then xerox transferred onto the plates, with the number of plates used per print varying between two and three. Brilliant colors of high contrast, such as vermilion and aquamarine, scarlet and emerald green, purple, bright yellow and orange, characterize this visually dynamic group of etchings.

Alphabet is an entirely new departure for Baechler. To construct these prints, he brought with him an extensive collection of idiosyncratic publications and printed material. He appropriated from sources as diverse as handwritten church cookbooks from the '50's, 1940's children's activity and coloring books, high school yearbooks from the '60's, 1970's teen fan magazines, and various empty cardboard boxes and candy wrappers. He is concerned with the ephemeral nature of both text and graphic images and it is this very spirit of collecting that lies at the basis of his work.

First Among Equals is a classic Baechler composition and is familiar to us from his paintings in which a very small number of carefully chosen images are placed in the picture field, operating together via primarily abstract and formal relationships. In this print, two large black silhouettes of horses' heads and two roses drawn in strong black outlines compose a vocabulary of signs. According to Baechler, the title itself, "First Among Equals", "suggests a lot but actually describes and reveals very little in terms of narrative intention, which is just how [he] likes [his] titles." Baechler prefers the title to be an entrée into the imagery and not an explanation of its mysteries and secrets.

In this print, the hand painted silhouettes, drawn by Baechler directly on the plate with black sugarlift, contrast with the appropriated line drawings of the two roses, which were rendered through xerox transfer. In keeping with his inclination to reuse and to cull from pre-existing materials, Baechler used the back of an old copper plate that had been previously scratched and worn. The random marks of these plates give this etching its rough-hewn and richly textured background while the Hosho paper chine collé adds to its warm gray tones.

Baechler has an accomplished history in printmaking and approaches the medium with great aplomb and enthusiasm. He has successfully made prints of all kinds for twenty years in the U.S., Japan, Germany, Austria, The Netherlands and France. His deft expertise is evident in this project for Paulson Press.

Donald Baechler was born in Hartford, Connecticut and lives and works in New York. Considered one of the important painters of his generation, his work is part of the permanent collection of the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Museum of Modern Art and the Guggenheim Museum in New York, the Museum of Fine Art in Boston, the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam and the Centre George Pompidou in Paris. His work has been shown in numerous galleries in the U.S. and in Europe and is held in various significant private collections and foundations. His most recent solo exhibitions were at the John Berggruen Gallery, San Francisco, Galerie Thaddeus Ropac Salzburg,

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Alphabet (A, B, C), 2003
Aquatint, Xerox transfer aquatint and harground etching
Somerset White Paper
Portfolio of twenty-six etchings
Image size 12" x 9"
Paper size 18" x 14", Edition of 15



Alphabet (D, E, F), 2003
Aquatint, Xerox transfer aquatint and harground etching
Somerset White Paper
Portfolio of twenty-six etchings
Image size 12" x 9"
Paper size 18" x 14", Edition of 15



Alphabet (G, H, I), 2003
Aquatint, Xerox transfer aquatint and harground etching
Somerset White Paper
Portfolio of twenty-six etchings
Image size 12" x 9"
Paper size 18" x 14", Edition of 15



Alphabet (J, K, L), 2003
Aquatint, Xerox transfer aquatint and harground etching
Somerset White Paper
Portfolio of twenty-six etchings
Image size 12" x 9"
Paper size 18" x 14", Edition of 15



Alphabet (M, N, O), 2003
Aquatint, Xerox transfer aquatint and harground etching
Somerset White Paper
Portfolio of twenty-six etchings
Image size 12" x 9"
Paper size 18" x 14", Edition of 15



Alphabet (P, Q, R), 2003
Aquatint, Xerox transfer aquatint and harground etching
Somerset White Paper
Portfolio of twenty-six etchings
Image size 12" x 9"
Paper size 18" x 14", Edition of 15



Alphabet (S, T, U), 2003
Aquatint, Xerox transfer aquatint and harground etching
Somerset White Paper
Portfolio of twenty-six etchings
Image size 12" x 9"
Paper size 18" x 14", Edition of 15

Austria and Cheim & Read, New York.

For more information about these prints, please contact Paulson Press at (510) 559 2088. Prices and availability subject to change.



Alphabet (V, W, X), 2003
Aquatint, Xerox transfer aquatint and
harground etching
Somerset White Paper
Portfolio of twenty-six etchings
Image size 12" x 9"
Paper size 18" x 14", Edition of 15



Alphabet (Y, Z), 2003
Aquatint, Xerox transfer aquatint and
harground etching
Somerset White Paper
Portfolio of twenty-six etchings
Image size 12" x 9"
Paper size 18" x 14", Edition of 15



First Among Equals, 2003
Sugarlift aquatint etching, Xerox transfer
aquatint with chine collé
Somerset White and Hosho Paper
Image size 36" x 27"
Paper size 46 1/2" x 36"
Edition of 25