

SA377674

After Sir Edwin Landseer -
Highly amusing 'Laying Down
The Law'

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA377674

Date of manufacture: 19th Century

Dimensions

Height = 66 cm (26.0")

Width = 77 cm (30.3")

Depth = 3 cm (1.2")

Description

After Sir Edwin Landseer and engraved by G Zobel mid 19thc 'Laying down the Law' Laying Down the Law as it is commonly known, is an oil-on-canvas painting from 1840 by the English painter, which satirises the legal profession. It depicts dogs in the roles of members of the court with a French Poodle centre stage as the judge. The painting was inspired by a chance comment by a judge, while at dinner with Landseer, that the French poodle belonging to amateur artist and renowned socialite, the Count d'Orsay, "would make a capital Lord Chancellor". Landseer was a member of the RA and had become famous for his paintings and drawings of animals. He completed 'Laying down the Law' in 1840 — it was exhibited at the Royal Academy in the same year and was acquired by William Cavendish, 6th Duke of Devonshire, who had Landseer add his Blenheim spaniel, Bony, into the scene behind the greyhound. Early copies of the painting can be seen with Bony absent. The original now hangs in the Sculpture Gallery at Chatsworth House. The poodle has been variously identified as representing Lord Brougham, who had been Lord Chancellor from 1830 to 1834, or Lord Lynhurst, who had held the po...

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