

YOU MIGHT OWN IT, BUT PLEASE DO NOT COPY IT!

That is correct – believe it or not - you might own the original, but you are not permitted to make copies of it!

U.S. Copyright laws provide various rights, some which are held by the owner of a painting while the artist or the artist's heirs retain some. In the case of an original Backus painting, the owner of the painting clearly owns that original. The owner is entitled to do with it what he or she desires, including the right to display it for the public to view, and even to charge admission to view it, or to keep it privately displayed, or to restore it, or if an owner is so inclined, she may modify it or destroy it entirely.

However, the right to make copies of the work is held exclusively by Backus or in this case, the legal heir to the rights in the Backus name and of his works – The A.E. Bean Backus Gallery & Museum, Inc. The heirs of A.E. Bean Backus collectively granted all rights to the Backus name and all rights to all Backus paintings to the Gallery after his death.

Therefore, strange as it may seem, if an owner of an original Backus painting makes a copy, he or she is committing copyright infringement and is breaking the law.

Should you desire a reprint of your original Backus painting; the A.E. Backus Gallery may be able to offer you a solution. You must contact the Gallery to receive written permission and to learn more about the Gallery's reproduction policies and procedures.