

Pasquale "Patsy" Santo

Winter's Fun, 1943

Pasquale "Patsy" Santo (1893-1975)

Oil on canvas

"Realism I think describes my attitude toward life and also toward art." -Patsy Santo, from his artist statement published in the catalog to *American Realists and Magic Realists*.

Pasquale "Patsy" Santo was one of many talented self-taught artists catapulted into the national spotlight in the late 1930s. Santo was a native of Italy, making his way to Bennington by 1917. Here, he worked at the Bennington Brush Company, EZ Waist Co., the Holden Leonard Co., and as a house and decorative painter. In 1937 he won first prize for a painting at the Vermont State Fair in Rutland. His work at the fair was seen by Walt Kuhn, an artist who was instrumental in introducing modernism to the American public. Kuhn helped Santo navigate his way through the complexities of the New York art world, where he had a number of successful exhibitions from 1939 through the 1950s, including MoMA's 1943 *American Realists and Magical Realists*.

Santo did not own a car, so many of his paintings depict scenes in and around Bennington, where he lived for most of his adult life. This painting depicts children and their dog sledding and enjoying the snow, a common theme in his work, only a couple of blocks from Santo's home.