

John Atherton

Hot and Cold, 1943

John Atherton (1900-1952)

Oil on canvas

This still life, featuring a selection of antique objects and images, including a framed print of cats, a plaster figure of a dog, and a tin funnel, with an abalone shell hanging from a string, exemplifies Atherton's ability to imbue an innocuous assemblage of objects with the uncanny. The background landscape, seen through a gap in a wooden fence, featuring a patchwork of snow-covered ground, with large, pillar-like stone outcrops, has an otherworldly feel, endowing an otherwise straightforward still life with an eerie, inexplicable aura.

The Schoen Collection: Magic Realism