

Albert Maennchen, A skier with a dog near St. Moritz, c. 1906/07, oil on paper, not signed, 35 x 66 cm, several smaller folds, parts with traces of usage and smaller missing parts
The picture was provided – in museum quality – with a new passe-partout and a new frame with museum glass (anti-reflective, very high UV protection, anti-static, abrasion resistant) of the company HALBE.

Albert Maennchen (1873 Rudolstadt – 1935 Berlin) received his first drawing and painting lessons from his brother, who was 12 years his senior, the well-known landscape and genre painter Adolf Maennchen (1860–1920). After working successfully as a painter's assistant and master painter, he studied ornamentation, decorative painting, sculpture, art history, and architecture at the Royal Arts and Crafts Museum in Berlin from 1896, and later also briefly at the Berlin University of the Arts. During his main creative phase before the First World War, Maennchen won numerous important commissions for paintings in Rudolstadt, Berlin, Düsseldorf, Danzig, Paris, Turin, and St. Louis, among other places, and received awards such as the French State Medal for Art at the World Exhibition in Paris in 1900 and the Italian and American State Medals (1902 and 1904, respectively). He died of lung cancer in 1935.

Between 1899 and 1906/07, Maennchen continued to further his education through study visits lasting several months at the Académie Julian in Paris. He probably created the painting on offer here after the last of these trips. The sheet may be part of a series of works grouped around Maennchen's tempera painting "Winter bei St. Moritz" (Winter at St. Moritz), which was exhibited for sale at the Berlin Künstlerhaus on October 9, 1907. It can therefore be assumed that this and the other sheets were created in St. Moritz in the winter of 1906/07. Some of the works in the series were distributed worldwide by the London publisher Raphael Tuck & Sons as oilette postcards in the "Sport in the Alps" series.

Painted depictions from the early days of skiing are quite rare. The large-format sheet shows an oil sketch with broad brushstrokes quickly thrown onto the paper over underdrawings, depicting a skier with his dog enjoying the view of the sun-drenched winter mountain landscape. Typical of the time, the man is equipped with simple wooden skis and poles and wears black knee-length trousers over black socks and a white upper garment that merges into a white cap with a visor. Whether the red face is evidence of exertion or sunburn remains Maennchen's secret. With just a few brushstrokes, the artist manages to capture the impression of such a wonderful day of skiing.