

JOHN MITCHELL

FINE PAINTINGS



Johannes Schütz (1886 - 1953)

St. Moritz in winter, Graubunden, Switzerland

oil on canvas, 24½ x 32¼in. (62 x 82cm.)

signed and dated 1933

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Emulating the Divisionist technique, Schütz applied striations of paint in great quantities to his canvas. Looking from Ober Alpina across the frozen lakes towards Piz Margna, St. Moritz can be made out in the distance. The paint surface in the foreground bristles with impasto that has been worked upon and grooved to render skiers' tracks, the undulating meadows under deep snow, shadows and even the foliage on the spruces and larches. It is a remarkably successful, if unusual, picture and raises the question as to why this Swiss painter is not better known. The forty or so pictures recorded by him are all from the 1920s and 1930s and seem to be exclusively of the Engadine. Schütz was possibly an amateur painter and like many of his fellow mountain landscapists of the time, in the sway of the Divisionist style of painting as seen in Segantini's work and shown in this catalogue with Maggi's *Mont Blanc du Tacul*.