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ISAAC VAN OSTADE

Haarlem 1621 - 1649

Winter Landscape with a Frozen River and Horse-Drawn Sleighs

Oil on oak panel, 56 x 99 cm

Signed and dated lower right: *Isack. Van. Ostade. / 1644*



Provenance: Sébastien Érard (1752-1831), Paris;
His estate sale, Paris, Salle Lebrun, 23 April 1832, lot 107, for 3,000 francs;
Collection Gerard Arnhold ca. 1950;
By descent to the current owner.

Literature: J. Smith, *A Catalogue Raisonné of the Works of the Most Eminent Dutch, Flemish, and French Painters...* London 1829, vol. 1, p. 195, cat. no. 62;
J. Smith, *Supplement to the Catalogue Raisonné of the Works of the Most Eminent Dutch, Flemish, and French Painters...* London 1842, p. 135, cat. no. 39;
C.H. de Groot, *A Catalogue Raisonné of the Works of the Most Eminent Dutch Painters of the Seventeenth Century*, London 1910, vol. 3, p. 464, cat. no. 89;
D. H. Mireur, *Dictionnaire des ventes d'Art faites en France et à l'étranger pendant les XVIIIe et XIXe siècles*, Paris, 1911, p.468 ("Vue d'un Canal glacé").

Van Ostade was born in Haarlem in 1621. He was an apprentice in the workshop of his well-known brother Adriaen, who was 11 years his senior. Isaac worked in his brother's studio producing paintings much in the style of his brothers' work. In 1641 Isaac left his brothers' studio and began to produce work independently.

Our painting represents the very best of Ostade's winter scenes, painted from approximately 1641 until 1647. He excelled at winterscapes in which genre-like vignettes play out against expansive landscapes stretching into the distance. At left, several trees anchor the scene and frame a sloping embankment from where two horse-drawn sleds are about to embark. At right, children engage in a variety of winter pastimes: pushing one another on sledges, playing kalf, and rolling hoops. Passages of yellow and peach pigment define the low horizon line and evoke a crisp winter chill, even as patches of blue sky break through the clouds.

Ostade produced this painting, which is signed beautifully (with flocks of snow on some of the lettering) and dated lower right, in 1644, the year after he joined the Haarlem painter's

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Guild and only five years before his premature death in 1649 at twenty-eight. Though Ostade's career was short, he was a prodigious artist. Isaack van Ostade's winter landscapes were a strong influence on the work of other Haarlem landscape painters, including Claes Molenaer and Philips Wouwerman. His winter scenes were particularly popular, likely due to the Little Ice Age of the 1640s, when waterways throughout Europe

This painting is one of five by Ostade formerly in the collection of the renowned Alsatian pianoforte and harp maker, Sébastien Érard. Another of the three Ostade winterscapes once in Érard's collection is now at Kenwood House, London. Sébastien Erard, was made Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur in 1827 and ended his life in 1831 with a collection of more than 200 Old Master paintings published in a catalogue in 1831 which had to be republished a year after because of its success. Many famous composers owned Erard Pianos, such as Beethoven, Chopin, Fauré, Haydn, Liszt, Wagner, Ravel....

Other winter scenes by Isaac van Ostade can be found in the Musée du Louvre, Paris, Eijk and Rose-Marie van Otterloo Collection and the National Gallery London.