

The Rat Catchers

George Smith Armfield



1857
Oil on Canvas
51 x 42cm

The final oil painting on this wall is titled 'Ratcatchers' and was completed in 1857 by George Smith Armfield (1840-1875) and depicts two terriers trying to get at a cage in a stable. Few subjects in Victorian art drew as large an audience or were as widely reproduced, as those referring to animals. Queen Victoria commissioned artists to paint portraits of the royal dogs and many members of Victorian society looked at domestic animals very fondly. Armfield exhibited his works at the Royal Academy and the British Institution for over twenty years. Many of Armfield's paintings have been attributed to Sir Edward Landseer, an English animal painter, whose work is now on display around the world including the British Library and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.