



Cagnaccio di San Pietro (Italian, 1897–1946). *The tow-rope*, 1926. Cassa di Risparmio. Photo credit: Erich Lessing / Art Resource, NY.

Even though he was well known for his still-life paintings, di San Pietro was influenced heavily by Futurist artists, who depicted and deconstructed human movement. His early work was categorized as “magical realism,” but eventually his paintings became as bluntly realistic as photographs. In *Tow-Rope*, 2 men appear to perform the impossible task of towing a large boat into harbor. Although likely an allegorical painting, the strain of muscles and tendons, the clenching of fists, the near dislocation of shoulders are conveyed with an almost clinical precision.

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