

## **JOHN GEORGE BROWN**

**English/American, 1831–1913**

*Sympathy*, n.d.

**Oil on canvas**

**On loan from The Owens Foundation**

John George Brown was born in Durham, England and moved to New York City in 1853, where he later established a studio. Brown adapted the British tradition of genre painting – precisely rendered scenes of daily life, often anecdotal or sentimental – to American subjects and audiences. While many European genre paintings depict peasant life, Brown specialized in painting children who lived and worked on the street. Here, a young shoeshine boy and his dog share a glum look, as though the dog feels sympathy for the boy's plight.