

# KLAAS MULLER

## J A N C O S S I E R S

### A Merry Drinker

A man pours himself a glass of wine from a jug while smiling as he looks out of the picture.

Antwerp-born Jan Cossiers was a student of Cornelis De Vos, later he travelled via France to Italy where he was impressed by Caravaggism. It was on his return to Antwerp that he met the humanist Nicolas-Claude de Peiresc. That was a good friend of Rubens and he even advised Rubens to employ Cossiers. Back in Antwerp, the painter would collaborate on Rubens' Torre de Parada series, among others. After Rubens' death in 1640, Cossiers received mainly religious commissions for large paintings (some of which are still preserved in Mechelen).

Our painting is clearly influenced by the Caravaggists: a daily theme with a merry drinker, depicted up to the waist with a striking use of light. Cossier's style is clearly recognisable in his typically fluent touch, his treatment of the face and fingers and his predilection for a brownish colour palette.

2 other paintings of Cossiers with the same dimensions and comparable subjects do exist (Academy Vienna and private collection).

Oil on panel, 73,7 x 57 cm, Marked by the Antwerp Panel makers Guild on the reverse (see attachment)



#### Artist description:

Jan Cossiers was a Flemish painter and draughtsman. Cossiers' earliest works were Caravaggesque genre works depicting

low life scenes. Later in his career he painted mostly history and religious subjects as well as portraits. Cossiers was one of the leading painters in Antwerp after Rubens' death in 1640 and one of the most original colorists in 17th-century Flanders. He was an accomplished draughtsman who created some sensitive portrait drawings executed in a very varied and fluid manner. Jan Cossiers was a versatile artist who worked in various genres such as portraits, genre and history paintings. There was a clear evolution in Cossiers' career, which was not unlike that of some of his Antwerp contemporaries such as Simon de Vos and Theodoor Rombouts.