KLAAS MULLER

STUDIO OF JAN SANDERS VAN

Saint Jerome

In this evocative composition, Saint Jerome is presented in a moment of profound contemplation. Draped in a deep red robe, the saint is depicted in a rocky, cave-like setting, his hands clasped in prayer. Beside him, a skull and wooden cross evoke themes of mortality and spiritual devotion. His face, deliberately blurred, draws attention to the emotional intensity and inner focus of the scene.

A master of the Flemish Renaissance, Van Hemessen was known for his dramatic use of light and psychological depth. Here, he combines religious solemnity with theatrical tension, using chiaroscuro to heighten the spiritual atmosphere.

Rather than portraying Jerome as a cardinal, Van Hemessen aligns with the humanist tradition, depicting him as a penitent hermit—withdrawn from worldly distractions, devoted to study, prayer, and self-reflection.

This rare and striking panel is a testament to Van Hemessen's ability to render the spiritual with raw, human emotion.



