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>> Drost isn't exactly a household name. His total oeuvre only has about 30 paintings. He's one of only two Rembrandt pupils who went to Italy after studying with Rembrandt and he's the only Rembrandt pupil of who went to Italy of whom we also have Rembrandt-esque works. Artists sometimes make self-portraits of themselves in the guise of saints. There are other young artists, and they were always young artists, who did paint themselves as St. John the Evangelist. Of the 12 apostles, he was the youngest, so you're a young artist you're going to portray yourself as the only young apostle. And he was also very handsome, so there's a bit of vanity as well. There he's holding a golden goblet and the goblet refers to an apocryphal story about St. John. Someone tried to poison him and in some depictions you'll actually see a snake in the goblet and that's how John was alerted to the fact that it was poisonous and didn't drink it. It's another question why someone would want to buy a painting, a self-portrait of an artist as St. John the Evangelist. The appeal of these paintings was that you got two paintings for the price of one. You got a portrait of a saint but you also got a portrait of the artist of course.

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