

CARAVAGGIO : THE MASTER OF TENEBRISM

Dr. Om Prakash Mishra

Principal

Minerva Institute of Mgt. and Tech.

Dehradun, Uttrakhand

Email: mishraop200@gmail.com

Priya Surkali

MFA

Abstract

Michelangelo Meridiano da Caravaggio is one of the most significant Italian Baroque artist of his era. This study analyses the life and work of Caravaggio. His paintings have been designated as realistic presentation of human state both physical and emotional with dramatic use of Chiaroscuro, also known as tenebrism (the strong contrast of light and shadow). Caravaggio vividly expressed important moments and scenes, involving violence, torture and death. He worked mostly with live models. Caravaggio's subjects categorically based on religious theme.

Keywords

Tenebrism, Chiaroscuro, Baroque, realistic.

Reference to this paper should be made as follows:

Received: 23.02.2024
Approved: 24.03.2024

Dr. Om Prakash Mishra,
Priya Surkali

*CARAVAGGIO : THE MASTER OF
TENEBRISM*

Article No.15
RJPSS Oct.-Mar. 2024,
Vol. XLIX No. 1,
pp. 114-117

Similarity Check - 39%

Online available at:

[https://anubooks.com/
view?file=3526&session_id=rjpss-
2023-vol-xlix-no1-mar2024](https://anubooks.com/view?file=3526&session_id=rjpss-2023-vol-xlix-no1-mar2024)

[https://doi.org/10.31995/
rjpss.2024.v49i01.015](https://doi.org/10.31995/rjpss.2024.v49i01.015)



Caravaggio born in Sep 29 1571 , Milan ,trained as painter in Milan before moving to Rome in his 20s. He considered as violent and provocative man , and being involved in a couple of murder. Caravaggio's naturalistic observation of his models (who were often beggars, criminals , and prostitutes) combined with his expressive use of Chiaroscuro lightning , gave rise to a unique style that was widely imitated. Caravaggio had a strong influence on later movement , especially Baroque and realism .

Caravaggio's father , Fermo (Fermo Merixio) , was a household administrator and architect - decorator to the Marchese of Caravaggio. In the 1576 the family moved to Caravaggio's to escape a plague that ravaged Milan and Caravaggio's father and grandfather both died on the same day. Caravaggio's mother had to raise all of her five children's in poverty , later died in 1584, in the same year he began his four year apprenticeship to the Milanese painter Simone Peterzano , who is described in a contract of apprenticeship as a pupil of Titian .

Beginnings in Rome

After his initial training under Simone Pietrazano , in 1592 ,Caravaggio fled Milan for Rome after “a few fights” and the wounded police officer. The young artist arrived in Rome “naked and desperately needy ,without provisions short of resources.

In Rome , there was a demand for paintings to fill the many huge new churches and palaces being built at the time. This was a time when the Church was searching for a stylistic alternative to religion art . Caravaggio's art was naturalistic that combined both physical, dramatic and theatrical, use of light and shadow technique known as chiaroscuro (is the use of strong contrast between light and dark , usually bold contrast affecting the whole composition) this technique gave him recognition as an artist.

Artwork of Caravaggio

1. Boy with the Basket of Fruits

Boy with a basket of fruit , is a painting by Caravaggio currently in the Galleria Borghese , Rome this painting hails from the time when Caravaggio had just arrived in Rome and his way to make his identity on Rome there he met his friend Mario Minniti , who is the model in this painting . This painting depicts the ability of painter to paint everything from skin of a boy to the Skin of the fruits,

from the folds of the gown to the weave of the basket. This evaluation tells that Caravaggio was being sensible when it comes to depict details in his painting.

The work was featured in the collection of Giuseppe Caesarian, the Cavaliers d' Arpino.

2. Judith Beheading Holofernes

This painting of Caravaggio is based on the episode of bible, painted in 1598 -1599 in which the widow Judith stayed with Assyrian general Holofernes



in his tent where she 's left alone , piles him with alcohol and when he's passed out she cuts his head off with his own sword , the amount of blood there is , which is coming out of Holofernes's neck or rolling down the side of the bed and a tiny stain of blood that landed on the women's arms and the dress. The faces of three character demonstrate the mastery of emotion ,Judith's expression on the other hand displaying a mix of dedication and repulsion .

Artemisia Gentileschi and the others were deeply stimulated by this work , while this even surpassed Caravaggio's physical realism , it's been said that none can matched his capture of Judith's mental ambivalence .

3. The Musicians

The musicians or concert of youths is a painting by the Italian painter Caravaggio in 1571 -1610

. This work is commissioned by Cardinal Francesco Maria del Morte , who was very fond of music. It is said to be one of his most complicated paintings, because it was probably painted from life. The musician is the first painting which is done specially for cardinal .

The reference of musical instruments for this painting is used from Cardinal Del Monte which owned various musical instruments. During this time musical instruments were often involved with wealthy ownership and status, due to being expensive



4. The Calling of Saints Matthew

The calling of saints Matthew is an oil painting by Caravaggio that depicts the moment when Jesus Christ calling mathew to follow him . This masterpiece is one of his best artworks. This beautiful painting is located at the Conterelli Chapel in San Luigi die Francesi in Rome. This artwork are commissioned by the church . This painting is based on the chapter from Gospel of Mathew . Jesus saw a men named Matthew and said to him



“Follow me” . Caravaggio represented him as the tax collector sitting at the table surrounded by four other figures. Jesus is pointing at Metthew, while the ray of light illuminates the faces of the men at the table who are looking at him.

References

1. Wikipedia
2. Britannia
3. Caravaggio :the complete works by Sebastian Schutze /book