



Caravaggio, 1571-1610

Gilles Lambert

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Notorious bad boy of Italian Baroque painting, Caravaggio (1571-1610) is finally getting the recognition he deserves. Though his name may be familiar to all of us, his work has been habitually detested and forced into obscurity. Not only was his theatrical realism unfashionable in his time, but his sacrilegious subject matter and use of lower class models were violently scorned. Michelangelo Mirisi de Caravaggio lived a life riddled with crime and scandal, producing a body of work that wouldn't be appreciated until centuries after his mysterious death. Though his body was never found, he is assumed to have been murdered by ruffians on a beach south of Rome-a fate strangely similar to that of controversial Italian director Pier Paolo Pasolini who was, like Caravaggio, a homosexual. Caravaggio's reputation was decidedly poor during his lifetime; sometimes rich, sometimes penniless, when he wasn't in prison he was running away from the police or his enemies. Perhaps no other painter has suffered such injustice: his works were often attributed to more respected painters while he was given the credit for just about anything vulgar painted in the chiaroscuro style. Caravaggio's great work had the misfortune of enduring centuries of disrepute. It wasn't until the end of the 19th century that he was rediscovered and, quite posthumously, deemed a great master.

Caravaggio, 1571-1610 Details

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From Reader Review Caravaggio, 1571-1610 for online ebook

Gregory Earls says

As I tracked down my favorite Caravaggio paintings in Europe, this book was my bible. Incredibly rich in information with gorgeous color plates, this book has become very important to me. If you're looking for a quick reference tool for the works of the great Baroque artist, this is a good bet.

Lucija says

[image error]

Theresia says

In the wise words of my friend JS, "Guy sure loved his boys."

(But of course! What did you expect, JS!)

Angie says

A super short biography with great photos of his work. A tumultuous life filled with turmoil. I guess that's what makes the greats great. I've always loved the dark realism of Caravaggio and now I know why, at least partially.

Charlie David says

Well written overview of the notorious rebel Caravaggio. This is a thoughtful review of his artwork as well as shedding light on the locales and society he lived in and how those are so important to consider when contemplating an artist's corpus. Though Caravaggio often caused a scandal, this book does not reprimand, nor cast judgement on action as biographers sometimes fall into the temptation to do.

Much of what Caravaggio did was illegal in his and our own time and may provoke more than the raising of a questioning eyebrow. What I really appreciated in this short book is that I didn't feel led to any specific moral judgment by the writer but felt permitted to draw my own conclusions.

As an artist he was a master and it's exciting that some of his work is still being rediscovered and correctly attributed to him.

My thanks to the writer and team who worked on this book - I'll certainly search out your other work!

Marcello says

Caravaggio è uno dei miei pittori preferiti, unanimemente considerato uno dei più grandi della storia dell'arte. Il volume è agile e conciso, visto che è lungo solo 96 pagine e le illustrazioni, davvero ben fatte, ne occupano buona parte. Se dovessi giudicare solo le opere stampate al suo interno, 5 stelle non basterebbero. Mi tocca abbassare un po' il giudizio perché il testo è a tratti un po' troppo generico e qua e là ci sono anche degli errori, cosa che non mi sarei aspettato da una casa editrice come Taschen che, sebbene a prezzi contenuti (questo libro costa 9,99 €), di solito pubblica opere di ottima qualità.

Ed says

The writing wasn't great, but the images, obviously, were wonderful. Caravaggio was an extraordinary artist. Can't wait to read more in-depth about him and his works.

Ken Rogerson says

Not for the scholar, but for the pupil like me. Nice, short overview of Caravaggio that includes both history and artistic style. Really beautiful reproductions of his works.

Carmo says

Chris Westbury says

I have been looking for a book about Caravaggio for a long time. This one was perfect for me: a decent, short essay about his life, good reproductions of the paintings, and not at all expensive. For me this was an ideal introduction. Recommended.

Anima says

A wonderful book about an artist and his paintings which reach at our senses with aesthetic dimensions contouring the beauty of freedom

On the cover- Victorious Cupid (1603) , the god of love, joyful and nonchalantly holding two arrows shows his effortless defeat of the intellectual, which is represented in the background through the symbols of the quadrivium: "love conquers all; let us all yield to love!" (Virgil)

One of the most famous art historians and art critics, Robert Longhi, who thoroughly analyzed Caravaggio's work, said "People speak of Michelangelo de Caravaggio, calling him now a master of shadow, now a master of light. ... Ribera, Vermeer, la Tour and Rembrandt could never have existed without him. And the art of Delacroix, Courbet, and Manet would have been utterly different"

Feisty Harriet says

The biographical information is fairly sparse (not that there is a huge wealth of primary source documents from 500 years ago), but the full-color images are stunning.

Caroline Gurgel says

Breve, mas nos dá um bom panorama sobre quem foi Caravaggio

Jozef Melichár says

Text- 3 stars (Informative but a bit flat)

Paintings & Reproductions- 4 stars (I miss my favourite painting -The Incredulity of Saint Thomas)

Caravaggio's life- 5 stars

Heather says

Fairly decent biographical account, but could go into more detail with analysis of the paintings. Disappointed too that 'Taking of Christ' only got the briefest of mentions as it is, in my opinion, one of his best works.
