



# Caravaggio

## Picture Study

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# Boy with a Basket of Fruit

Caravaggio, 1593



Narcissus  
Caravaggio, 1594-1596



Bacchus  
Caravaggio, c.1595



# Martha and Mary Magdalene

Caravaggio, c. 1598





# The Martyrdom of St. Matthew

Caravaggio, 1599-1600



# The Conversion of St. Paul

Caravaggio, 1600



# The Crucifixion of St. Peter

Caravaggio, c. 1600



The Lute Player  
Caravaggio, c. 1600





# The Adoration of the Shepherds

Caravaggio, c. 1609



St. Jerome  
Caravaggio, c. 1610



# Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio (1573-1610)

## ARTIST BIO NOTES

*These notes are provided to aid the teacher's own background research on the artist and his or her works. This is not meant to be presented to students as a list of facts and dates. When you first introduce the artist, tell students where the artist fits into the timeline of history, and where the artist lived and worked. Add a few more details with each new picture, but the information you share should be short and simple unless your students ask questions or wish to know more. Keep the main focus of your Picture Study time on observation and narration of the details of the picture.*

*Note: if a footnote appears with a fact that is not a direct quote, the fact comes from ONE source only.*

Caravaggio was born Michelangelo Merisi in 1573. He was also known by the name of his birthplace—Caravaggio, Italy. After serving as an apprentice in Milan, Caravaggio worked as an assistant to lesser painters in Rome for a time. When he was about 22 years old, Caravaggio began to sell his own paintings.

Several years later, Cardinal Francesco del Monte commissioned him “to paint for the church of San Luigi dei Francesi.” Here, Caravaggio painted three scenes depicting St. Matthew’s life in a natural yet dramatic style, sharply contrasting light and shadows. Although he was criticized about his style of art, Caravaggio’s reputation as an accomplished artist spread. He was able to obtain a number of impressive commissions, particularly to paint religious works.

Despite his spreading fame, Caravaggio was in trouble with the law on numerous occasions for assault. When he stabbed his tennis opponent during a dispute over the score, Caravaggio was forced to flee Rome, temporarily settling in Naples to paint. During this time, Caravaggio’s style changed to a “dark and urgent nature,” probably a reflection of this troubled time in his life. In 1608, Caravaggio traveled to Malta, where he was welcomed

as a talented artist. Although he continued to flee for two more years, his paintings during this period are considered to be some of his best works. Caravaggio eventually received a pardon from the pope, but he died shortly afterwards on July 18, 1610. Caravaggio was a “revolutionary painter” of his day, known for “almost single-handedly... creat[ing] the Baroque style” of art.

### ARTIST BIO LINKS FOR FURTHER STUDY

[http://www.bc.edu/bc\\_org/avp/cas/his/CoreArt/art/bar\\_cvggio.html](http://www.bc.edu/bc_org/avp/cas/his/CoreArt/art/bar_cvggio.html)

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic\\_figures/caravaggio.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/caravaggio.shtml)

### PICTURE SOURCE LINKS

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Boy\\_with\\_a\\_Basket\\_of\\_Fruit-Caravaggio\\_\(1593\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Boy_with_a_Basket_of_Fruit-Caravaggio_(1593).jpg)

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Michelangelo\\_Caravaggio\\_065.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Michelangelo_Caravaggio_065.jpg)

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bacchus-Caravaggio\\_\(1595\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bacchus-Caravaggio_(1595).jpg)

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Michelangelo\\_Caravaggio\\_051.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Michelangelo_Caravaggio_051.jpg)

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Martha\\_and\\_Mary\\_Magdalene-Caravaggio\\_\(c.1599\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Martha_and_Mary_Magdalene-Caravaggio_(c.1599).jpg)

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Conversione\\_di\\_san\\_Paolo\\_September\\_2015-1a.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Conversione_di_san_Paolo_September_2015-1a.jpg)

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Crucifixion\\_of\\_Saint\\_Peter-Caravaggio\\_\(c.1600\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Crucifixion_of_Saint_Peter-Caravaggio_(c.1600).jpg)

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The\\_Lute\\_Player-Caravaggio\\_\(Hermitage\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The_Lute_Player-Caravaggio_(Hermitage).jpg)

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Adoration\\_of\\_the\\_Shepherds-Caravaggio\\_\(1609\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Adoration_of_the_Shepherds-Caravaggio_(1609).jpg)

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:San\\_Gerolamo\\_\(Caravaggio\)\\_September\\_2015-1a.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:San_Gerolamo_(Caravaggio)_September_2015-1a.jpg)