

Caravaggio: Reflections & Refractions (Los Angeles, 19–20 Mar 09)

David M. Stone

Call for Proposals for annual Renaissance Society of America conference

Los Angeles, California, March 19-21, 2009:

Caravaggio: Reflections and Refractions

Organizers: Lorenzo Pericolo, University of Montreal; and David M. Stone, University of Delaware.

As we approach the 400th anniversary of Caravaggio's death (1610 / 2010), it is time to reconsider the artist and his works by grappling not with the whole torrent of new Caravaggio research but selectively, with a more limited group of pivotal if thorny issues that we consider paramount for renovating and re-launching studies in this field.

On reflection, we determined that four themes are particularly suited for these discussions, as they encompass broad questions destined to change our views on Caravaggio, his art and his followers. Therefore, we are particularly interested in new essays:

- 1) that challenge the current understanding of Caravaggio's and his Followers' techniques and creative process;
- 2) that reassess, develop or refute the nearly contradictory perception that many scholars have had in interpreting Caravaggio: the realist-empirical painter (well acquainted with the new experimental methodologies in the field of the natural sciences and optics, and therefore favoring "description" over "narrative") vs. the theological painter (deeply influenced by the pauperism of the early seventeenth-century Counter-Reformation, and therefore elaborating a new poetics of poverty through his works);
- 3) that re-interpret Caravaggio's techniques of narration, especially with respect to temporality, decorum and verisimilitude; or
- 4) that give new insight into the way Caravaggio's followers elaborated on pictorial themes inaugurated or reformulated by their leader: fortune tellers, cardsharps, tavern scenes, as well as the myriad tropes represented

in his religious pictures.

Proposals should be sent by May 20, 2008, to:

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For information on the conference and registration, go to

<http://www.rsa.org>

Reference:

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(accessed Dec 18, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/30329>>.