



Smithsonian Associates

Masterpieces and Mayhem: Caravaggio's Artistic Revolution

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Wednesday, June 26, 2024 - 6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. ET

Caravaggio Resources

BOOKS

There are several readable biographies of Caravaggio. I've put them in my own order of preference: Langdon's is probably the best of a strong group.

Helen Langdon, *Caravaggio: A Life* (1998)

Andrew Graham-Dixon: *Caravaggio: A Life Sacred and Profane* (2010)

John Spike, *Caravaggio* (2001)

Besides these biographies, there is an excellent (and affordable) illustrated edition of his paintings published by Taschen:

Sebastian Schütze, *Caravaggio: The Complete Works* (2009)

FILMS

Someone whose life was as dramatic as Caravaggio's can expect to be represented on film, and indeed he has been. Unfortunately, both films are a bit difficult to find — but worth it if you can stream or rent, especially the more recent one.

Caravaggio (1986), directed by Derek Jarman. A fictionalised version of his life.

Caravaggio's Shadow (2022). A visually spectacular Italian-French co-production. Available on streaming platforms such as Apple TV.

<https://tv.apple.com/au/movie/caravaggios-shadow/umc.cmc.75fyhxo7dhj1vyb43beyzhr89>

PAINTINGS

Where can you see Caravaggio paintings in the United States? Luckily, there are some spectacular examples.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

The Musicians (c. 1595)

The Denial of Saint Peter (c. 1610)

The Lute Player (1596)

Holy Family with St. John the Baptist (1603)

The Cleveland Museum of Art

The Crucifixion of Saint Andrew (c. 1607)

The Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth, Texas

The Cardsharps (c. 1594)

Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, CT

St. Francis of Assisi in Ecstasy (c. 1595)

Toledo, Ohio, Cathedral Museum

John the Baptist (1598)

Detroit Institute of Arts

Martha and Mary Magdalen (1598)

Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City

John the Baptist (1604)