

## The Caravaggist and the Revival of Seventeenth Century Features in "Utrecht" Murals

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### Abstract:

"Michelangelo Mirizzi", known as "Caravaggio" (1571-1610), is a unique case in the art of Italian painting during the seventeenth century. The influence and style of "Caravaggio" extended through generations of photographers who saw in his personality and style a model to become an expression of Italian, and even European identity during the modern era. So that, his works became an inspiration for contemporary mural works in the streets and squares. The following study focuses on presenting this contemporary vision of the heritage of the century The seventeenth, through the project of re-establishing the national identity of the Dutch city of "Utrecht", embodied in a number of mural paintings that reproduce the works of "Caravaggio" and his students, and through that, the vision can be reconfigured. similarly, in the Egyptian artistic heritage. So that it can be visually reformulated and presented to society in a way that preserves its identity and increases awareness of its heritage and culture.

### Keywords:

Caravaggio, 17th century, Fresco, Utrecht, Cultural Identity.

### An Introduction:

The artist "Michelangelo Merizzi", nicknamed "Caravaggio" (1571-1610) was a model of the creator who embodied the characteristics of his time. Between light and shadow, in addition to using human models lived in his daily life in order to give religious painting a concept different from the systematic form that was imposed by the church during his time, this made him the subject of indignation by the clergy, despite what he left of a distinctive artistic heritage on the themes and characters of the book holy.

The character of "Caravaggio" has always been controversial, he is hostile, loves the noisy life, frequents places to gamble and street fights regularly, his biography is filled with police records and court files, and he was convicted of murder, and the cause of his death is still shrouded in mystery, but - On the other hand, he established in his style an inspiring school for many of his contemporaries and students in Italy, and in the rest of Europe as a whole for several centuries later in what historians called "Caravaggisti".

Caravaggio's works did not stop at the limits of his era, nor did they confine themselves to the walls of museums and exhibition halls, but went beyond his era and his homeland to be today a source of inspiration and decoration for the streets and squares in some European cities, especially the Dutch city of Utrecht. In fact, the relationship between "Utrecht" and "Rome" extend its roots back to before the emergence of "Caravaggio", through a number of factors and means of communication. The following research sheds light on the roots of these relations, and examines the influence of "Caravaggio" on generations of artists from the

seventeenth century to the th century. The twentieth century through a number of murals that revive the paintings of this artist, as well as the paintings created by his students.

### **Research Problem:**

The chasm separating contemporary visions and cultural and artistic heritage is one of the biggest challenges facing societies and peoples in order to adhere to identity and stick to their roots. Based on this principle, some European cities have resorted to re-presenting artistic heritage in a contemporary image, through a number of drawings and murals in the streets. And the fields, so that the awareness and culture of the general community grow in the modern era without isolation or interruption from the artistic heritage and the production of the first pioneers.

### **Research Importance:**

Mural photography is an important tool of spreading culture and awareness, and shaping the public taste of the community. Transforming streets and squares into museums replete with the artworks of the early pioneers, and introducing the public to their production and methods is one of the most important methodological plans that are moving forward in this way, shedding light on contemporary Western experiences. In order to restore the roots, and link them to the rhythm of the daily life of the general community through murals, to open the door for us to similar experiences that contribute to the dissemination of artworks of the pioneers, raising the taste of the public, and creating a general atmosphere suitable for the continuation of the artistic movement's march at the academic and societal levels.

### **Search Questions:**

- 1- What are the historical roots of the Dutch city of Utrecht's relationship with Italian art?
- 2- How did Carvadgio's influence spread to Holland? And how did the characteristics of his art school influence the work of the following generations of Dutch artists?
- 3- What are the social and cultural influences that lead the contemporary artist towards the reproduction of heritage artworks?
- 4- To what extent do contemporary societies accept the reproduction of artworks in murals?
- 5- How can the experience of "Utrecht" be benefited from in similar experiments that focus on employing contemporary murals?

### **Research Aims:**

- 1- Shedding light on the history of Dutch art and its relationship to the Caravaggio Art School.
- 2- A review of contemporary murals in the city of "Utrecht" and their historical and morphological analysis.
- 3- To highlight the role that murals play in shaping identity and linking societies to their civilizational and cultural roots.

### **Research Methodology:**

The historical analytical method.

### **Search Limits:**

Spatial boundaries: the Dutch city of "Utrecht".

Time limits: the seventeenth century AD - the twentieth century.

### Research Results:

First: To identify the artistic personality of the Dutch city of "Utrecht", and to clarify the impact of "Caravaggio" on the formation of its artistic features over the course of ten years.

Second: Extracting the plastic artistic features in the works of the artists of "Utrecht" through their influence on the values of light and shadow, and the topics of a realistic nature on which "Caravaggio" focused.

Third: Finding the relationship between Dutch photography and the historical and political events that Europe experienced at that time during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries

Fourth: Analyzing examples of contemporary mural painting in the city of "Utrecht" in light of its influence on the "Caravaggio" art school, in addition to analyzing its relationship to the environment and community culture.

Fifth: The possibility of benefiting from the experience of the city of "Utrecht" in contemporary Egyptian mural works, so that they become an embodiment of the stages of development of Egyptian art, working to raise the cultural and artistic awareness of the audience.

### Recommendations:

Through what was reviewed in the research, the researcher recommends the following:

First: More research in the field of the history of the various arts, with an emphasis on the value of analyzing artworks in Western European schools, as the model that established the existence of modern arts in the world.

Second: Tracing contemporary artworks in the field of mural painting related to traditional and classical arts and styles.

Third: Conducting comparative studies between the different technical schools in order to identify the most important developments that have grown over the different eras and their role in advancing the creative process.

Fourth: Develop a plan, under the supervision of academics, in order to implement similar artistic experiences that present heritage and creations for generations of artists to the contemporary Egyptian society, in order to achieve an increase in awareness and artistic sense, and increase the value of belonging and sense of the value of the Egyptian identity.

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