

CHRONOLOGY

1606

28.05

In Rome, Caravaggio kills Ranuccio Tomassoni during a game of court tennis. The cause of the brawl is probably a gambling debt of 10,000 scudi that the artist owed Tomassoni. Sentenced to death, Caravaggio flees from Rome assisted by Marzio and Costanza Colonna.

23.09

Caravaggio is at Paliano, a feud of the Colonna family in Lazio.

6.10

Caravaggio is recorded for the first time in Naples, where he receives 200 ducats from Nicolò Radulovich for an altarpiece, 13 and a half palmi high and 8 and a half wide, with "the image of the Madonna with the Child in her arms surrounded by choirs of angels, and below, in the middle, St. Dominic and St. Francis embracing, with St. Nicholas on the right and St. Vitus on the left." It was to be delivered the following December. The altarpiece has never been traced.

1607

9.01

Tiberio del Pezzo, Governor of the Pio Monte della Misericordia, paid Caravaggio the balance owing on the painting for the high altar of the church of the Confraternity.

28.04

Geronimo Mastrillo (or Mastrilli) commissions Caravaggio to paint a work still untraced: "To Geronimo Mastrillo 30 ducats and for him to Michelangelo Caravaggio, given for the completion of a picture with the Image of St. Jerome that he has made and delivered, pending the balance, he has received cash. And for him to Gio. Battista Caracciolo for many others." The document bears witness to the direct contact between the artist and the painter Battistello Caracciolo.

11.05

Caravaggio receives a down payment from Tommaso de Franchis for the painting of the Flagellation intended for the noble chapel in San Domenico Maggiore (now in Capodimonte): "To Tomase di Franco 100 ducats and for him to Michelangelo Caravaggio given us to pay him the balance of 250 ducats, since the other 150 ducats have been paid in cash and are in consideration of the price of a [omission by the drafter of the document] that he will have to deliver. He is paid in cash."

28.05

Tommaso de Franchis pays 40,09 ducats to Caravaggio through the Banco di Sant'Eligio (Pacelli 1977, p. 280). The purpose of the payment is unknown, but it was probably a further installment for the Flagellation (Naples, Museum of Capodimonte).

24.06

Caravaggio leaves Naples for Malta aboard a galley of the Order of the Knights of Jerusalem captained by Fabrizio Sforza, the son of Costanza Colonna Sforza, marquise of Caravaggio, who had reached Naples a week before.

14.07

Caravaggio is recorded in Malta.

25.09

Two paintings by Caravaggio are sold in Naples: the Madonna of the Rosary (Vienna, Kunsthistorisches Museum) and a Judith and Holofernes.

24.12

Alfonso Fenaroli receives the patronage of the third chapel on the left in the church of San'Anna dei Lombardi, which will contain three paintings by Caravaggio, their subject being recorded in documents or travelers' accounts: a Resurrection, St. Francis Receiving the Stigmata, and St. John the Baptist.

1608**14.07**

Caravaggio is admitted to the Order of Malta as a Knight in Obedience.

27.08

Following a brawl involving a confrere of the Order, Caravaggio is imprisoned in Malta.

6.10

Caravaggio escapes from the Sant'Angelo prison in Malta by scaling the walls with a rope.

1.12

Caravaggio is expelled from the Order of Malta.

1609

Before August

Caravaggio is in Messina, where he is commissioned by Nicolò di Giacomo to paint four canvases with Stories of the Passion.

24.10

Caravaggio is certainly back in Naples and is wounded near the Osteria del Cerriglio.

1610

11.05

Paints the Martyrdom of St. Ursula (Naples, Palazzo Zevallos Stigliano) for the Genoese prince Marcantonio Doria, which is sent to Genoa about two weeks days later.

10-11.07

Caravaggio leaves Naples by sea to return to Rome, probably after learning that he has been granted a pardon. On arriving at Palo he is held for investigation.

18.07

Caravaggio dies at Porto Ercole.