

Name _____

Caravaggio: The Baroque Rebel Art

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Caravaggio's realistic style and portrayal of everyday people made his art more relatable and accessible to viewers. One example is his painting "The Supper at Emmaus," where he depicts the moment of recognition between the disciples and the resurrected Christ. The ordinary clothing and expressions of the figures make the scene more relatable and connect the viewer to the emotional depth of the biblical story. This approach influenced later artists to depict religious subjects in a more down-to-earth and humanized manner.
2. Caravaggio's innovative approach to religious subjects, such as "The Calling of Saint Matthew," made his works relatable because he depicted biblical scenes in contemporary settings. By using ordinary people as models and placing them in everyday contexts, he made religious stories more accessible to the audience of his time. This relatability made viewers contemplate the relevance of faith in their own lives, adding a thought-provoking dimension to his art.
3. As an art historian, I would analyze Caravaggio's legacy by emphasizing his groundbreaking contributions to art. Caravaggio's use of chiaroscuro, realism, and relatable subject matter revolutionized the way artists approached their craft. His influence on the Baroque and realist movements is evident in the works of later artists who adopted his techniques and themes. Caravaggio's controversial life and rebellious spirit further cement his place as a legendary figure in the art world, inspiring generations of artists to think outside the box and challenge conventions.
4. Caravaggio's tumultuous life experiences likely contributed to the emotional depth in his paintings. His personal struggles and encounters with adversity may have fueled his ability to convey intense emotions in his art. The real-life drama and passion he experienced may have translated into the dramatic and emotional intensity of his subjects. His paintings often captured moments of tension, realism, and raw emotion, which could reflect his own experiences and inner turmoil.

