

# Comparative Study



**Supper at Emmaus 1601  
Caravaggio**



**The Last Supper 1495  
Leonardo da Vinci**



**The Raising of  
Lazarus 1609  
Caravaggio**

In this case study, I will be investigating artists Caravaggio and Leonardo da Vinci. I have chosen 3 pieces of art to focus on to explore formal qualities such as **texture**, **tone**, and **color**. I will analyze the style of art (Baroque and Renaissance) and how that connects to the culture behind it. Even though both artists are from different periods of time they both share similarities and differences, this will be specifically analyzed further through the comparative study.

## Cultural Significance

This piece was created during the renaissance time period which began around the year 1300-the 1400s. The renaissance is described as the great revival of art that took place in Italy from the influence of the rediscovery of classical art and culture. The renaissance was important culturally for many artists like Da Vinci because it contributed to how art was created, thought about, looked at, and developed various kinds of art in many ways it pushed visual form to more expressive heights than had ever been witnessed. Without out its art surely would not be the same today.

Leonardo Da Vinci created The Last Supper between 1495 - 1498 in the 15th century. It captures a dramatic scene described in Mathews 26:21-18. In this section, Jesus declares that one of the Apostles will betray him and later institutes the Eucharist. Leonardo believes that posture, gesture, and expression should manifest the “notions of the mind,” each of the 12 disciples reacts in a way that Leonardo considered fit for that man’s personality. The resulting piece combines different emotions in one painting to tell a religious story. Although the different perspective of scenes has been created by artist Leonardo’s painting culturally differs because his consists of the traditional clothes describes in the bible everything is neatly and intentionally arranged.



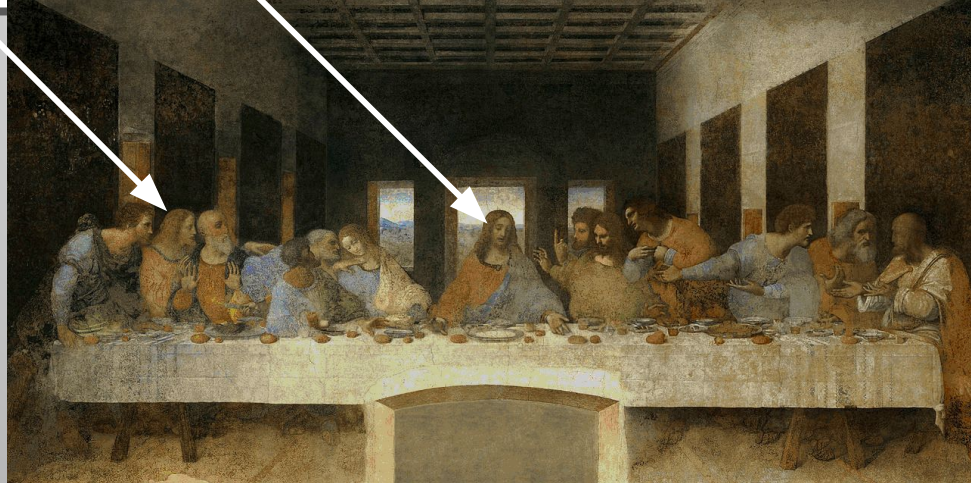
**The Last Supper 1495 Leonardo da Vinci**

# Function and purpose

Leonardo Da Vinci created the last supper with a purpose. When making this he intended on capturing the emotions and feelings of every single one of the apostles at that climatic point in time. Jesus is purposefully placed in the center with 4 groups of 3 apostles on the sides of him. The intention is to make Jesus the focal point of all the drama.

Da Vinci's The last supper serves as a religious interpretation of a story in the bible and his representation of it. There are many other representations of the last supper yet da Vinci's is the most well-known.

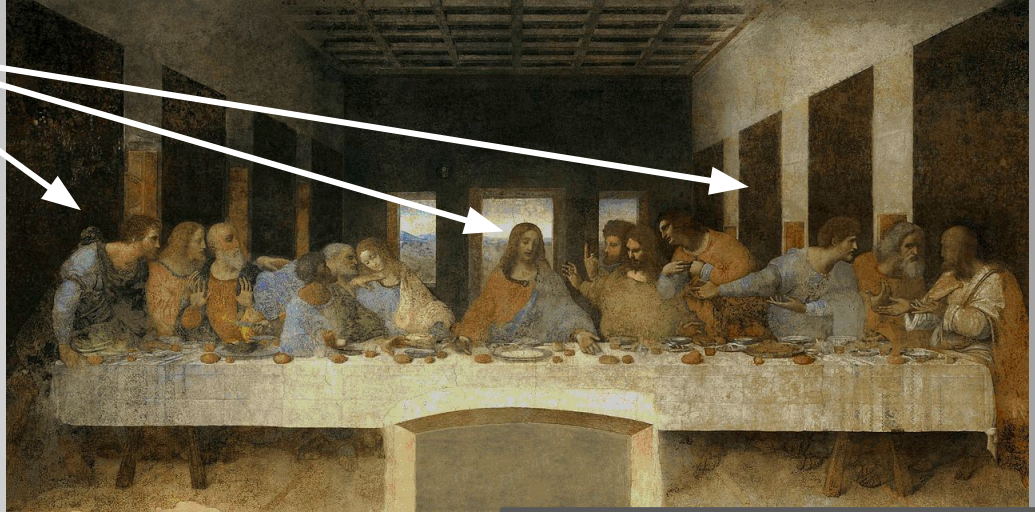
**The Last Supper**  
1495 Leonardo da Vinci





# Formal Qualities

Leonardo da Vinci uses **balance** throughout the painting on each of Jesus there are exactly 6 apostles with 3 groups of each there is an equal number of windows behind him and an equal number of brown panels on each side which all help direct the focus of attention on Jesus.



**Color** and **light** within the last supper are used by making Jesus the pain focus by illuminating him as opposed to the others he is more highlighted than the rest as if there is a light shining on him, he is also intentionally wearing bright clothes and red is seen to represent danger or fire within in the bible. This would foreshadow the tragic effects that happened afterward. Or used is a very neutral dull pallet of many browns and earthy **tones**. **The texture** is very heavy in this piece, it isn't smooth and has a rough appearance.



## The Last Supper 1495 Leonardo da Vinci

The Last Supper medium is painting, specifically murals. He used an experimental form by applying tempera paint and mixing it directly on the stone wall. This method also caused major fading as the painting aged.



**The Raising of Lazarus 1609 Caravaggio**



**Supper at Emmaus 1601  
Caravaggio**

## Cultural significance

### **Supper at Emmaus:**

The Supper at Emmaus depicts the story told in St. Luke's Gospel when after the Crucifixion, two of Christ's apostles invite an apparent stranger, who they have recently met, to share their meal with them.

### **The Raising of Lazarus:**

Lazarus is a figure in the bible. The oil painting depicts Jesus Christ while bringing Lazarus back to life. Caravaggio drew inspiration for Savior's pose from The Creation of Adam, one of the frescoes that Michelangelo painted on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel.

Both these pieces were created by Caravaggio in the baroque period. The baroque style is created by motion and clear detail used to create drama in a certain form of art. As seen in Caravaggio, both of which are extremely dramatic with high detail and contain some sort of movement within the piece. The development of this style derives from the catholic church during the 1600s. A popular technique within baroque art is the chiaroscuro, this is the play on light and dark as seen in both Caravaggio paintings. He uses it to draw attention and detail to a certain area to capture the viewers' focus. Caravaggio is said to be the precursor of the baroque movement.

## Function and purpose

The purpose of the Supper at Emmaus is to grab your attention to tell a story. The story is told in St. Luke's Gospel when after the Crucifixion, two of Christ's apostles invite a stranger, whom they just have met, to share their meal with them. When he blesses and breaks the bread, they realize that their guest is the Resurrected Christ. St. Luke names one of the apostles as Cleophas, but he does not identify the other. "And their eyes were opened, and they knew him, and he vanished out of their sight." Behind them, the innkeeper gapes uncomprehendingly.



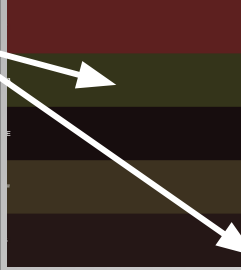
**supper at Emmaus 1601  
Caravaggio**

The artist, Caravaggio chose to represent a particular moment of that story as opposed to the other options. That is right after the apostles come to the realization that they are witnessing a miracle. Hence the reason they freeze is that they are in shock. So, the view can feel the shock that they must've felt anything at that moment.



## Formal Qualities

This painting includes 2 disciples wearing put-together clothes while the apostle is wearing torn clothes. The baroque style focuses heavily on **color**. Dark shades are used in the painting, and it has a dark **tone** throughout to give a dramatic effect. There are light parts to highlight or draw attention to those areas which provide great **contrast**. This is a neutral color painting, not heavily warm or cold but very bold. There is also the use of organic shapes to the use of color and tone is being used on. These organic shapes are the people within the painting, the focus. It has a smooth **texture** other than the texture represented on people's clothes that lets you imagine what fabric the clothes are made from. For example, the person on the far-right brown vest looks as if it is leathery through using **texture**.



The medium used was painting, more specifically oil painting. This medium allowed for flexibility and depth of color allowing it to give a realistic, dramatic appearance that the baroque styles have.



Supper at Emmaus 1601 Caravaggio

# Function and Purpose

The function of The Raising of Lazarus is very present in the people. By looking at the people there is a shock aspect, they all depict different emotions, and it leaves the viewer wondering why. The body of Lazarus looks very stiff, but it is odd because he is alive. This leaves confusion of the function. Why is the body stiff being he is alive? Along with shock, it is also an extremely dramatic piece from the depth of the **color** and the intense scene and emotion. It makes you look at the painting wondering what is happening and why, because it is so dramatic.



The purpose of The Raising of Lazarus serves a religious purpose. It is meant to represent one of the final miracles of Jesus. It was ordered by a wealthy merchant and was meant to be an altarpiece in the church of Padri. The lights on certain people for example as Jesus is bringing Lazarus back to life there is a spotlight on him. Which shows a sense of power, or it is meant to represent Jesus's miracle is working.

The Raising of Lazarus 1609 Caravaggio



## Formal Qualities

A formal quality represented in the raising of Lazarus is **space**. There is limited **space** within this piece because all the people within it are crowded in one main area. No one is spaced away from another, they are standing shoulder to shoulder. There is no foreground or scenery behind them, it is just a plain wall-like background putting all attention on the crowd of people.

The **shape** represented in this painting is organic. There are no harsh geometric **shapes** like squares or rectangles. Since this is supposed to replicate a religious scene it makes sense that there are people. Which is the only organic **shape** in the painting. The organic **shape** shows developing emotion.



The Raising of Lazarus 1609 Caravaggio

**Color** is what makes up the **contrast**, especially in this piece. Also, the **contrast** is made up between the **color value** as well. **Contrast** is also created through texture. There is texture on the organic **shapes** of the people especially on Lazarus as you can see his body looks life-like because of the texture.

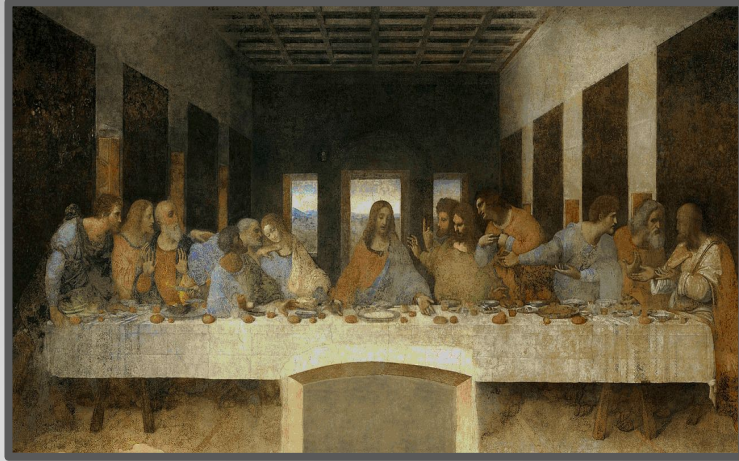
**Color** is a major quality of the piece and by far the most important. The **color** is represented through dark red tones with the light on the “important” part to draw attention to it. The **value** of light provides attention to crucial details of the painting that could easily go unnoticed if the **value** of light were not there. The **value** is represented through light and dark shadows. The dark rich shadows are around the edges of the painting.

## Comparison of Leonardo Da Vinci & Caravaggio's Works

Supper at  
Emmaus  
1601  
Caravaggio



The Last  
Supper 1495  
Leonardo da  
Vinci



### Culture

Both artists were inspired by huge art periods when creating these works. Being inspired by an art period shaped the way he created their painting and in the style they chose. The culture during the times of the work influences the detail in the paintings.

### Function and purpose

Both paintings represent a religious interpretation. These are both religious scenes. There are multiple versions of both paintings and each artist's interpretation of them. Both paintings show Jesus sharing a meal with his apostles. Both paintings are dramatic and capture the emotions of each person.

### Formal Qualities

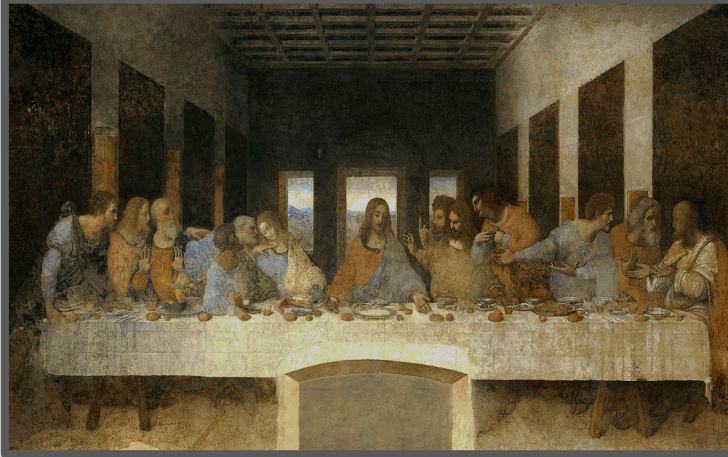
Both artists used a painting medium to create their pieces. They both use darker **colors** to add depth to certain areas of the painting. Along with that, they both use lighter colors to add focus and attention to the focus of the piece. The main focal point is Jesus and the drama between the people around him.

## Comparison of Leonardo Da Vinci & Caravaggio's Works

The Raising of  
Lazarus 1609  
Caravaggio



The Last Supper 1495  
Leonardo da Vinci



### Culture

Both Da Vinci and Caravaggio's works have religious meaning behind them. They both represent moments in the bible and have bible figures depicted in them. For example, Jesus in The Last Supper and Lazarus in The Raising of Lazarus.

### Formal Qualities

Formal qualities they share would be the intensity of the **colors** used. They are rich in **color** but relatively dull. Both highlight the important parts usually in the middle with lighter tones. They both contain organic **shapes** with people and the details in their features.

### Function & Purpose

Both the Da Vinci and the Caravaggio paintings share a similar purpose. To tell a story both happen to be a religious story. It is especially the way they tell the story in the art that is similar. If you look closely at the people and each painting, you can see a different expression in each one. They all display different emotions with whatever drama is happening.



## Comparison of Caravaggio's Works

Supper at  
Emmaus 1601  
Caravaggio



The Raising of Lazarus  
1609 Caravaggio



### Culture

Both these painting Supper at Emmaus and The Raising of Lazarus cultural significance are similar. Because they share the same artist and time period. They were both made in the early 1600s with painting mediums. And both were created during the baroque time period with religious meanings.

### Function & Purpose

Since Baroque is such a Dramatic Genre in art both pieces are meant to grab your attention and shock. Each person has a separate expression of their feelings. These are dramatic religious events, and they depict how the artist viewed them.

### Formal Qualities

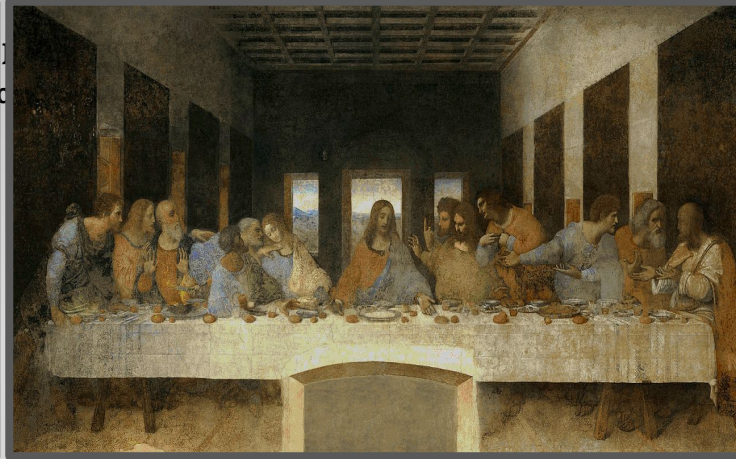
Caravaggio uses darker **tones** in each painting. He keeps the background dark in both. Both paintings have **an asymmetrical balance**. In the middle of the **asymmetrical balance**, we see the “important person” who whom we should pay attention to with highlighted **tones**.

## Comparison of Leonardo Da Vinci & Caravaggio's Works

Supper at  
Emmaus  
1601  
Caravaggio



The Last  
Supper 1495  
Leonardo da  
Vinci



### Formal Qualities

#### Culture

The most significant difference between cultures' backgrounds in these pieces is that they were created 106 years apart from one another. This is important because of the gap that was created between the two different art periods. The last supper was created during the Renaissance while Caravaggio's was made during the baroque period. This allowed two different methods and styles.

The last supper is made of colors that are not bold compared to Supper at Emmaus dark/rich colors. This is partly because of the different mediums. Although they are both paintings Da Vinci uses Tempera paint and Caravaggio uses oil paint. The tempera dries very matt and can fade over time while the oil paint dries very shiny and bold. The textures between these paintings are quite different. Since Caravaggio's was created on a much flatter surface and medium than Da Vinci it has a smooth texture. The last supper has symmetrical balance throughout the piece while in Supper at Emmaus it is Asymmetric as the people do not hold equal weight on each side

#### Function and purpose

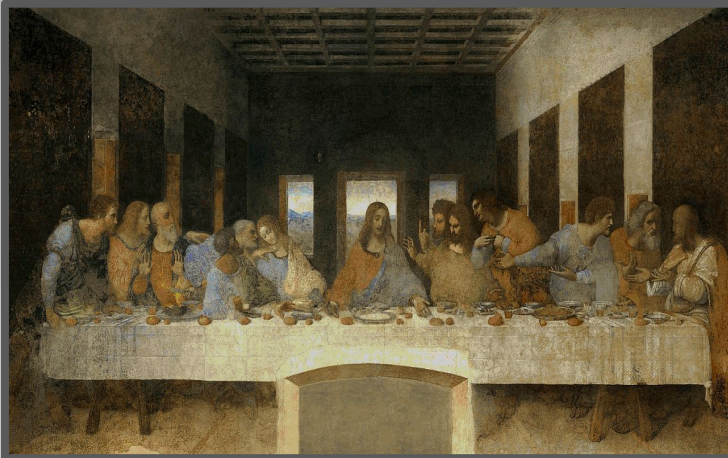
Unlike Da Vinci, Caravaggio's piece feels extremely dramatic, like his main purpose is to grab the viewer's attention with shock, so they can interpret what is happening on their own even if they do not know the religious background. Da Vinci does not try to shock anyone, it is more to show his interpretation of The Last Supper.

## Comparison of Leonardo Da Vinci & Caravaggio's Works

The Raising of  
Lazarus 1609  
Caravaggio



The Last Supper 1495  
Leonardo da Vinci



### Culture

Like the previous Caravaggio piece, it was created during the baroque time period. Da Vinci's was created in the renaissance period allowing for different methods and styles within their works.

### Formal Qualities

Caravaggio Raising of Lazarus has a very warm/ heavy red toned color pallet. Da Vinci's is a lot more on the cooler neutral side of the color palette. The last supper has an even symmetrical balance while raising Lazarus has asymmetrical balance.

### Function & Purpose

As mentioned prior, the baroque style usually is dramatic and intrigues the viewer with shock. Wonder what is happening and why. The last supper's back story is that Jesus announces one of his apostles will betray him. Although the story is dramatic the piece still looks calm and not chaotic like Caravaggio's.



## Comparison of Caravaggio's Works

Supper at  
Emmaus 1601  
Caravaggio



The Raising of Lazarus 1609  
Caravaggio



### Formal Qualities

### Culture

Both of these paintings is solely religious, but The Supper at Emmaus is seen in St Luke's Gospel Story which is a book while both religious Lazarus is depicted in the bible.

### Function & Purpose

The painting Supper at Emmaus was commissioned and paid for by Ciriaco Mattei for the church while the purpose of The Raising of Lazarus was made for the church of the Padri Crucifer in Messina. He received double the amount for this painting compared to the other one.

Since both these paintings were created by the same artist the formal qualities are not that different because most artists have a style they stick to too. Although the tones of colors are similar the choice is not. In the raising of Lazarus its multiple colors all with the same red undertones. Supper at Emmaus on the other hand uses dark colors instead. For example, it uses a rich red in the raising of Lazarus the other painting used a dark burgundy red.



Pappus 2022 Kaleigha Taylor



Shout 2022 Kaleigha Taylor

## Similarities

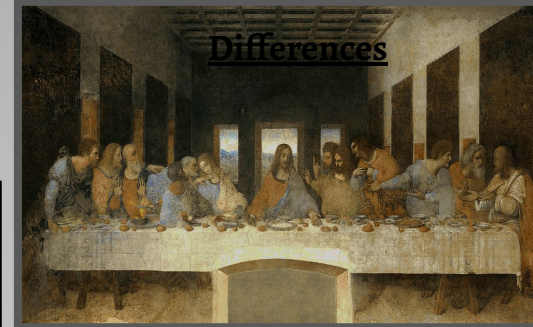
My art pieces are titled Pappus (left), and Shout (right) and Da Vinci's the last supper share the function of showing emotion. Davinci shows emotion in his piece through the mood and lights used. It is also shown on the faces of the people in the painting. You can clearly see there is a type of conflict happening which is causing commotion. That is all represented through the emotion of disbelief displayed on their faces. Although the piece is a different medium Pappus, and the last supper have similar balance. The balance both pieces share is symmetrical balance. As seen in my piece each object is reflected on the opposite side and holds the same amount of weight while on Da Vinci's if it were split down the middle, it would hold the same weight as well. They are 6 people on each side of Jesus.

## Comparison of my work and Davinci

### Differences

My works and the last Supper differ from each other as well. The purpose of Da Vinci's piece to share a story from the bible and his perception of that story. It has a religious background while my pieces purposes it displays internal emotion and chaos leading to growth. Da Vinci purposefully grabs the viewer's attention with dramatic emotion and scenery to interest them in the story while my piece does not do that, it makes one wonder what is happening or why. Da Vinci's piece is drama filled as often stories are. The drama is displayed in the commotion occurring between Jesus and his apostles. The color between the pieces is both different, my pieces are very colorful and use bright colors intentionally. On the other hand, Da Vinci uses gloomy colors with less intensity such as,

The Last Supper 1495 Leonardo Da Vinci



natural dull earthy tones, which adds a sense of calmness even though the opposite of that is about to happen. Both pieces have very mediums which reflect the time period they were made mined are acrylic and oil pastel something that would. The last supper was made on drywall with an oil and tempera paint mix. Tempera was immensely popular at this time but is not used much now because it does not mix well or last.



Pappus 2022 Kaleigh Taylor



Shout 2022 Kaleigh Taylor

## Comparison of my work and Caravaggio

### Differences

Like Leonardo Da Vinci, Caravaggio's Supper at Emmaus serves a religious purpose and depicts a story in the bible. While my work does not show a story or an event. My pieces are

Supper at Emmaus 1601 Caravaggio



### Similarities

Both Caravaggio's Supper at Emmaus and my Shout show emotion through face. The man on the left side of Caravaggio's painting shows the emotion of frustration or even anger while mine shows the emotion of fear or shock. The function is to show something that is important to the artist. Both my pieces have a sentimental value or are based on something sentimental or important while Caravaggio's show the moment where they recognize Jesus as the risen Christ. Which would be important to anyone in the Christianity faith such as Caravaggio. Both my piece shot, and Supper at Emmaus use asymmetrical balance they both have inequality between two sides of a picture, but the image still looks complete and sensible. Mine is used with a ghost-like hand on the opposite side of the figure. Caravaggio has it because one disciple is standing but the other is sitting and it still gives balance to the piece.

meant to relate to the viewer to share their experience of how they perceive the artwork. My artwork does not display a climate event like Caravaggio's. It shows the expression of emotions and feelings of what is important to the artist. The color palette from each artist's work is quite different. Although they both use color, there are vastly different tones and values of color. I use very bright vibrant colors that would be deemed colorful. Caravaggio uses bold dark colors that add ambiance to his work. The emphasis is also different between our artworks. Caravaggio uses light and dark use to emphasize certain actions and people in his work. For example, there is a shadow behind Jesus to emphasize him but also highlight the apostle's hand gestures to emphasize what is going on. My art only depicts a person and because of that they become the main emphasis or focus because there is no one else to draw attention to.





Pappus 2022 Kaleigha Taylor



Shout 2022 Kaleigha Taylor

## Comparison of my work and Caravaggio

### Differences

Like Caravaggio's other piece, he has a theme of depicted religious events in his artwork. This is titling The Raising of Lazarus is Jesus's final miracle. This is an important piece to anyone Christian especially

The Raising of Lazarus 1609 Caravaggio-



### Similarities

Like Caravaggio's previous piece Supper at Emmaus, he uses heavy emotion in facial expression and body language. The emotion on the faces of the people in the painting causes wonder and conclusion to the viewer. When looking at his piece it makes the viewer want to know more about what is happening, why, and what the outcome will be. My pieces have the same function as the piece to the left Pappus could cause wonder as to why there is a child on a bring alone, how did they get there, and what the flower symbolize. The piece to the right shout would also cause wonder and confusion because the viewer may want to know why the figure in distress is and what the ghost-like hands are doing. Both shout and the raising of Lazarus use color to tell part of the story. Caravaggio uses primarily warm tones in this piece. The many swirls and colors in the shout represent an overwhelming feeling. Both pieces were made of organic shapes to display their function and purpose.

in this time period. Caravaggio's piece purpose is to visual show the power of Jesus and to prove to people that his timing is always perfect. This piece is also made for commission meaning he created it with purpose to sell to someone else. My piece does not have a religious purpose, or we were not made with intent of commission. Although both pieces are in color, they are different hues, values, and intensity. My pieces have high color intensity they are very bright and pigmented. The raising of Lazarus color is not interesting, it consists of red hues, but they are not very bold which shows makes the art dramatized. The texture is also very different between pieces, especially when looking at the people depicted in the painting. The people in my painting look very smooth in texture. In Caravaggio's painting you can clearly see the texture on the people's bodies to show their body composition.

# Comparison of my work and Davinci (Culture)

The Last Supper 1495 Leonardo Da Vinci



Leonardo Da Vinci's piece The Last supper was created in the era of the renaissance, if this piece is not created during the renaissance it would be sure to have very different look. The renaissance culture directly inspired how this piece looks. Da vinci uses the aerial perspective, a technique that represents distant objects fainter and blue. This method was heavily used by the renaissance culture in order to create the illusion of depth in landscape scenes. The culture of the renaissance shaped the way this painting would turn out. My pieces were made over 500 years later meaning the culture in the time period is vastly different from them. The culture I was raised and grew up around of today is what influences my artwork, giving it a completely different look.

Pappus 2022 Kaleigha Taylor



Shout 2022 Kaleigha Taylor





## Comparison of my work and Caravaggio (culture)



**Pappus 2022 Kaleigha Taylor**  
**Shout 2022 Kaleigha Taylor**

In Caravaggio's work, he uses people represented in the bible. Each person plays a certain religious role in biblical stories. That is something very different from my art as it does not have any religious connection nor do the people with it. I see the people in my art as reflections of myself which is why they align with my culture. His art is also heavily influenced by the baroque movement which originated in Europe. According to ArtLand Magazine, this movement emphasizes dramatic, exaggerated, motion and clear, easily interpreted detail. On the contrary, my pieces would be a part of a modern movement as they were made in 2022 each using a different medium to do different things. For example, Pappus uses acrylic paint which dries fast making it easy to layer paint. Shout uses oil pastels which layer the colors bland giving it a cohesive look.



**Supper at Emmaus 1601**  
**Caravaggio**

**The Raising of Lazarus 1609**  
**Caravaggio**

