CARAVAGGI ISTI PAINTINGS IN POLISH COLLECTION – TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH
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TIMF OF REALIZATION:
From February 2014 – to February 2017

AIM OF THE PROJECT:
The aesthetic revolution pioneered by Micheangelo Merisi called Caravaggio (1571-1610) in the early years of the seventeenth century encountered a breeding ground and transformed European painting. Imitation, interpretations, and continuations, quoting his works permanently went down in history of art under the name of Caravaggism. Fashion for imitating new rules of luminism, new forms and themes reached artistic professions in Italy, Spain, Netherlands, Germany and France. Some of the artists travelled to Italy and knew the works of Caravaggio from experience and only a part of his followers works. The art of Caravaggisti had distinct features coming from painting tradition of places which artists came from. It didn’t concern only the subjects, but also applied materials. Technique and technology of paintings resulted from the use of locally available products and the tradition of local painting schools.

The main objectives are:
1. Learning and comparison of artist painting workshop working in different areas of Europe in the seventeenth and in the first half of eighteenth century, who were under the strong influence of Caravaggio works.
2. An in-depth examination of paintings from the most valuable works in Polish collections.
3. Reconstruction of Caravaggisti painting workshop.
4. Promoting and increasing the knowledge about techniques and technologies of Baroque painting.

MUSEUMS INVOLVED:

TYPE OF RESEARCH:
1. Non-destructive photographic methods: photography of facing and reverse side in visible (VIS), macro photography, microphotography, photography in the ultraviolet (UV), reflected UV photography, ultraviolet fluorescence photography, infrared reflectography (IR), X-ray photography (X-ray).
2. Physico-chemical research using non-destructive XRF (X-Ray Fluorescence Spectroscopy)
3. Physico-chemical analysis, requires taking samples from objects. The following methods will be used to identify minerals like pigments and its binders analysis:
   • Cross – section analysis of paint sample
   • Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR).
   • Scanning Electron Microscopy with X-ray microanalysis (SEM/EDS).
   • RAMAN spectroscopy
4. The results will be used in the next stage of the project, which involves the reconstruction of technology and painting technique by painting a copy.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROJECT:
Study results of paintings physical properties cast a new shadow over their authenticity, individual stories, crafts and artist workshops. They allow us to understand how to perceive and deal with paintings. Learning in which the artist creates and the way of painting provide valuable information about the period and the school in which he worked.