

THERE'S NOT ENOUGH ART IN OUR SCHOOLS.



NO WONDER PEOPLE THINK  
**CARAVAGGIO**  
 IS A GUY ON THE SOPRANOS.

It's quite hard to believe. Here's a 16th-century Baroque master whose bold naturalistic painting style first created a sensation, then a movement. A guy whose life was filled with the turbulence and excess of a dozen Mario Puzo novels. A guy



If you're looking for Caravaggio, you're very, very cold.

who, while troubled, ultimately found redemption — and immortality — in his art. But does the kid next door even know who Caravaggio is?

Fuhgedaboutit.

This loss is incalculable.

Especially when you consider how much children can learn from the conflicted life of someone like Michelangelo Caravaggio.

He grew up in less than ideal circumstances. Much of his family perished in the plague, and he spent much of his youth on the notoriously treacherous streets of Rome. As a young man, he labored beneath others much less talented than he and had difficulty making a living. He faced adversity at every turn.

And when his legendary temper threatened to get the best of him, he created his most vital masterpieces. The angry contrast between light and darkness that he felt deep in his soul now hangs in stark evidence in countless museums around the world.

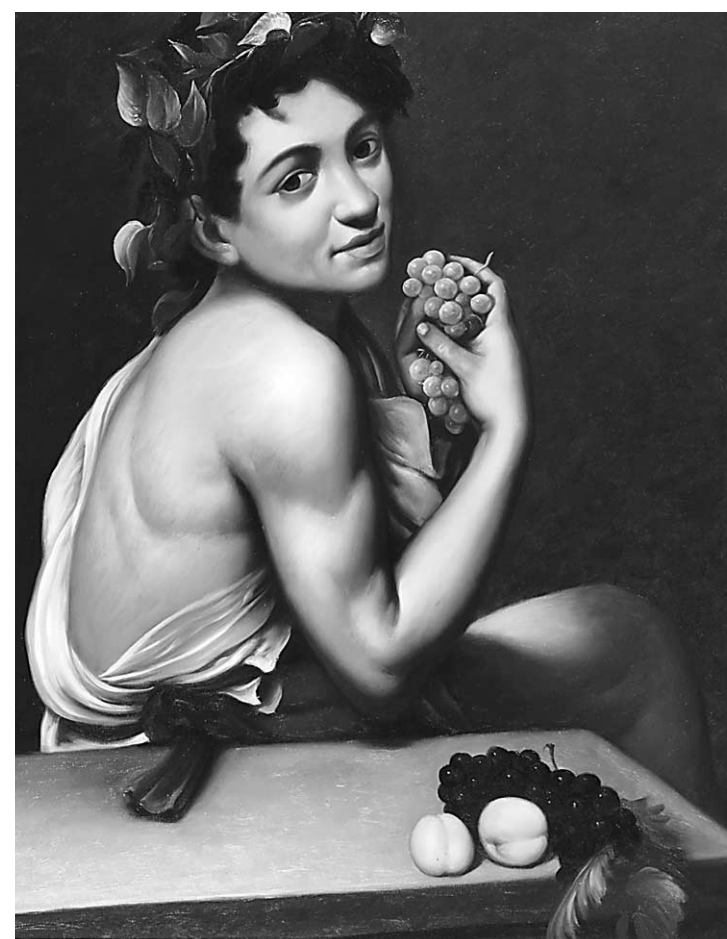
Caravaggio's body of work is not only a great example of the Baroque period, but also a case study in the importance of art as an outlet. One we're fast removing from our kids' lives.

**AN IMPORTANT LESSON.**

Study after study shows that an overwhelming majority of parents believe the arts are integral to their children's education. They like that dance

and music teach kids to be more tolerant and open. That painting and drama allow children to express themselves creatively. And that the arts help to promote individuality, while bolstering self-confidence and improving overall academic performance.

If only they knew that their kids spend less time in arts classes than they do watching commercials.



A self-portrait of Caravaggio as Bacchus. Let's be honest, he wouldn't last 10 minutes on *The Sopranos*.

**LET'S CUT TO THE CHASE.**

If the arts are indeed a vital part of your child's education and well-being (and they are), then you should demand your child's fair share. To find out what you can do to help, or for more information about the benefits of arts education, please visit us at [AmericansForTheArts.org](http://AmericansForTheArts.org). Because, as Michelangelo Caravaggio would no doubt tell you, a life without art is torture.

**ART. ASK FOR MORE.**



For more information about the importance of arts education, please contact [www.AmericansForTheArts.org](http://www.AmericansForTheArts.org).

