

# Giuseppe Tomasi

1610-1672

Italian painter

Giuseppe Tomasi of Tortorici or Joseph Thomasius lived in the seventeenth century, Tortorici is the place of origin attested by the signatures affixed to the works, a city where he was probably born in 1610, who died around 1672, the latter date derived from the last works carried out.

Apprentice of Gaspare Camarda who welcomed him to his workshop in 1626. Two years later, in 1628 he attended the school of Antonio Catalano the Elder. On the latter's death he went to the school of Giovanni Simone Comandè, an artist in his turn a student of Deodato Guinaccia. In maturity he is the owner of a thriving workshop, which includes among the disciples Francesco Napoli and Sebastiano Calà.

Palermo period. After a few years he made the first trip to Palermo to admire the works of the great masters of the past such as the Spasimo di Sicilia by Raffaello Sanzio, a painting of which he made a personalized copy for the mother church of Tortorici, the Nativity by Caravaggio and the works of Van Dyck who, about a decade earlier, had worked in the Sicilian capital. During this stay, the study of the works of the painter Pietro Novelli also influenced Tomasi's style.

Messina period. In 1637 the permanence in Messina is documented where it tightens contacts with the painter Antonino Alberti called the Barbalonga. Fundamental for his training, the attendance of the workshop of the Flemish painter Abraham Casembroot, author of some of the most beautiful views of the port of Messina.

Stay in Naples and Rome. A continental trip takes him to Naples where he has contacts with Domenichino and Jusepe de Ribera. From the Neapolitan city he reaches Rome driven by the thirst for knowledge and the desire to admire the masterpieces of the great masters of Italian painting of the past and frequent some contemporary artists like Francesco Albani with whom he certainly has contacts.

Return to Sicily. Seven years later he returned to Palermo where he met the greatest contemporary painters of the time.

His artistic activity ranges from 1631, date of his first autographed and documented work in Alcara Li Fusi, to 1672 with the work kept in Militello Rosmarino. The works scattered territorially in the small towns of the Nebrodi area: Alcara Li Fusi, Frazzanò, Militello Rosmarino, Mirto, Naso, San Marco d'Alunzio, Tortorici, limited in some countries on the slopes of Etna: Adrano, Bronte and Randazzo in the small church of San Giacomo di Geraci Siculo, county of the Marquises of Ventimiglia.

The 39 signed and dated canvases, other 68 attributed, the only theme of sacred art with Caravaggesque influences, permeated by the style of the painter Pietro D'Asaro, Giuseppe Salerno, or the famous Zoppo di Gangi, and other painters of Messina of the early seventeenth century, such as Alonso Rodriguez and other Flemish Caravaggeschi.

## Works

- 1647, Rosary of the Virgin, oil on canvas, documented work in the church of San Domenico in Messina.

- 1650, Jesus and Mary, painting on canvas, work kept in the church of Jesus and Mary of Bronte.
- 1651, Anime del Purgatorio, painting on canvas, work kept in the church of Santa Lucia di Mistretta.
- 1651, Trinity, painting on canvas, church of San Nicola di Randazzo.
- 1656, Madonna dell'Etna depicting the Virgin among Dominican saints, oil on canvas, work kept in the museum of Adrano.
- 1657, Coronation of the Virgin with Saints, oil on canvas, signed and dated with the inscription " Joseph Thomasius sm - habitator civitatis Tortoreti - pingebat 1657 " kept in the church of San Giacomo di Geraci Siculo.
- 1672, Immacolata, oil on canvas, the artist's last work documented in the cathedral of San Biagio di Militello Rosmarino.
- 17th century, Madonna dell'Itria, painted on canvas, documented and stolen from the church of Maria Santissima Annunziata di Capri Leone.
- 17th century, Deposition depicted with the three Marys, St. John the Evangelist and the symbols of the passion, painting on canvas, attribution, work kept in the church of Santa Maria di Gesù in Raccuja.

#### Works in Alcara li Fusi

- 1631, Immacolata depicted with Saint Clare of Assisi and Saint Rosalia, oil on canvas, the first work of the artist documented in the church of San Vincenzo.
- 1649, Collection of the body of Saint Nicholas Politi, oil on canvas, work kept in the hermitage of Saint Nicholas Politi.

#### Works at Mirto

##### Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta in Cielo:

- 1647, Rest during the flight to Egypt, painted on canvas.
- 1652, Deposition from the cross, painting on canvas, attribution of work.
- 1654, Anime del Purgatorio, painting on canvas.
- 1655, Last Supper, painting on canvas.
- 1658, Sant'Antonio Abate, painted on canvas.
- 1659, Annunciation, painting on canvas.
- 1660, Jesus and Mary or Redemption, painted on canvas.
- 17th century, San Pietro and San Paolo Apostoli with San Gaetano da Thiene, painted on canvas.

#### Works at Naso

- 1648, Adoration of the shepherds, painting on canvas, work kept in the church of San Cono di Naso.
- 17th century, Agonizing, painting on canvas, work kept in the cathedral of the Holy Apostles Philip and James of Naso.

#### Works in Tortorici

##### Church of San Nicolò:

- 1654c., Anime del Purgatorio, painting on canvas.
- 1662c., Sorrowful Virgin, painting on canvas, attribution.

##### Church of the Holy Savior:

- 1636c., Jesus before Pilate, painted on canvas.
- 1644c., Spasimo of Sicily, inspired by the famous Spasimo of Sicily, painted on canvas.
- 1658, Madonna and Child depicted with St. Anthony of Padua and St. Felix of Cantalice, painted on canvas.
- 17th century, Saint Anthony of Padua, painted on canvas.
- 1660, Madonna with Child and San Giovannino, painted on canvas.
- 1667c., Jesus and Mary, painted on canvas.
- 1668, Transfiguration, painting on canvas, signed Joseph Thomasius pingebat, AD 1668, commissioned by Don Dominici Primavera.

##### Church of Santa Maria Assunta, ( mother church ):

- 1652, Assumption of Mary, painted on canvas.
- 1636, Immacolata flanked by symbols, painted on canvas.
- 1638, Madonna delle Grazie depicted between Saint John the Baptist and Saint Lucia, painted on canvas.
- 1662, Pietà with Jesuits, painting on canvas.
- 17th century, Sant'Alberto Carmelitano, painting on canvas.
- 1656, Saint Catherine of Alexandria, painted on canvas, work from the church of the convent of the Order of the minor Capuchin friars and kept in the Council Chamber of the town hall.
- 17th century, Decorations of the wooden roof with depictions of Saint Francis of Assisi, Saint Anthony of Padua and the Immaculate Conception, works present in the church of Saint Francis of Assisi in the convent of the Order of Friars Minor.

#### Works in San Marco d'Alunzio

- 1647c., Holy Family portrayed with Saint Elizabeth and Saint John the Baptist, attribution.
- 17th century, Saint Anthony of Padua, painting on canvas, documented work.

Translated from:

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