



Christ Crowned With Thorns by Gerrit van Honthorst

Gerrit van Honthorst was born on November 4, 1592 in the Netherlands and moved to Italy in 1616 where he would adopt the naturalistic and chiaroscuro style of Michelangelo Caravaggio. While in Italy he received the nick name Gherardo delle Notti (Gerrit of the Nights) because he painted so many night scenes lit by candles or torches. After returning home in 1620, Honthorst together with his colleague Hendrick ter Brugghen set up a school called Utrecht.

In this oil on canvass painting, there is a man holding a flame to Christ for light as another man places a crown of thorns upon Christ's head. It is a gritty scene lit only by the small flame in the middle. Many of Honthorst's works were lit like this making heavy use of the chiaroscuro technique. The man holding the flame seems to be mocking Christ who humbly accepts the mans taunts. Two figures also appear in the background that could possibly be Pontius Pilate discussing Christ's fate.