"The Triumph of Death"

It was painted in 1562 by a Dutch artist called Pieter Bruegel. He travelled across Europe, for example he visited Antwerp, Rome and Brussels. While he was in Southern Italy he most likely saw the city of Reggio Calabria, which was at the time devastated by Turkish attacks.

In the picture a bunch of skeletons is attacking people. This imagery and the theme of the picture have their roots in the Danse Macabre aka the Dance of Death genre. The main trait of the genre is that it shows the universality of death. You can see people of different genders, races and social standings in the picture and none of them is safe. In the corner there is a dead king for example.

Despite being abstract, it depicts the problems of the age it was made in. In the real world there was such massacre as well, it's just that no skeletons were involved. As I said before, the invasion of the Ottoman Empire is one example.
The skinny dogs and horses are signs of poor living conditions. -starvation was not uncommon, mainly amongst the serfdom- In contrast to this, you can also see aristocrats in the bottom right corner.

The skeletons in the Danse Macabre genre can be associated with the Black Death, also called the bubonic plague, which was a common cause of death and was feared by everybody throughout the middle ages.

It also shows the horrendous execution methods of the middle ages. It shows death by the wheel, hanging and beheading.