

## Charles Pierre Baudelaire

Charles Baudelaire (1821 - 1867) was a major French poet who also produced notable work as an essayist, art critic, and pioneering translator of Edgar Allan Poe. His most famous work, *Les Fleurs du mal* (The Flowers of Evil) deals with themes relating to decadence and eroticism. His work influenced a whole generation of poets including Paul Verlaine, Arthur Rimbaud and Stéphane Mallarmé among many others.

Many of Baudelaire's philosophical proclamations were considered scandalous and intentionally provocative in his time. He wrote on a wide range of subjects, drawing criticism and outrage from many quarters.

Famous Quote: "The more a man cultivates the arts, the less randy he becomes... Only the brute is good at coupling, and copulation is the lyricism of the masses. To copulate is to enter into another and the artist never emerges from himself."

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