

Charles Baudelaire

Quotes

*Men, Art, Literature, Heart, Love, Beauty, Dream, Wine, Beautiful, Cat, Drunk,
Mean, Believe, Pleasure, Giving, Doe, Imagination, Evil, Eye, Order*

Strangeness is a necessary ingredient in beauty.

~Charles Baudelaire

Nothing can be done except little by little.

~Charles Baudelaire

To say the word Romanticism is to say modern art - that is, intimacy, spirituality, color, aspiration towards the infinite, expressed by every means available to the arts.

~Charles Baudelaire

God is the only being who, in order to reign, doesn't even need to exist.

~Charles Baudelaire

Dance can reveal everything mysterious that is hidden in music

~Charles Baudelaire

The man who says his evening prayer is a captain posting his sentinels.
He can sleep.

~Charles Baudelaire

The devil's finest trick is to persuade you that he does not exist.

~Charles Baudelaire

One should always be drunk. That's all that matters...But with what?
With wine, with poetry, or with virtue, as you chose. But get drunk.

~Charles Baudelaire

A book is a garden, an orchard, a storehouse, a party, a company by the way, a counselor, a multitude of counselors.

~Charles Baudelaire

Music fathoms the sky.

~Charles Baudelaire

I am unable to understand how a man of honor could take a newspaper in his hands without a shudder of disgust.

~Charles Baudelaire

Life has but one true charm: the charm of the game. But what if we're indifferent to whether we win or lose?

~Charles Baudelaire

A sweetheart is a bottle of wine, a wife is a wine bottle.

~Charles Baudelaire

Always be a poet, even in prose.

~Charles Baudelaire

True Civilization does not lie in gas, nor in steam, nor in turn-tables. It lies in the reduction of the traces of original sin.

~Charles Baudelaire

The beautiful is always bizarre.

~Charles Baudelaire

I have cultivated my hysteria with pleasure and terror.

~Charles Baudelaire

Remembering is only a new form of suffering.

~Charles Baudelaire

A work of art should be like a well-planned crime.

~Charles Baudelaire

There is a certain cowardice, a certain weakness, rather, among respectable folk. Only brigands are convinced-of what? That they must

succeed. And so they do succeed.

~Charles Baudelaire

Dancing is poetry with arms and legs.

~Charles Baudelaire

Dancing can reveal all the mystery that music conceals.

~Charles Baudelaire

The poet enjoys the incomparable privilege of being able to be himself and others, as he wishes.

~Charles Baudelaire

Genius is nothing more nor less than childhood recaptured at will.

~Charles Baudelaire

Poetry has no goal other than itself; it can have no other, and no poem will be so great, so noble, so truly worthy of the name of poem, than one written uniquely for the pleasure of writing a poem.

~Charles Baudelaire

Those men get along best with women who can get along best without them.

~Charles Baudelaire

There are as many kinds of beauty as there are habitual ways of seeking happiness.

~Charles Baudelaire

A multitude of small delights constitute happiness

~Charles Baudelaire

Evil is committed without effort, naturally, fatally; goodness is always the product of some art.

~Charles Baudelaire

Like those great sphinxes lounging through eternity in noble attitudes upon the desert sand, they gaze incuriously at nothing, calm and wise.

~Charles Baudelaire

There are women who inspire you with the desire to conquer them and to take your pleasure of them; but this one fills you only with the desire to die slowly beneath her gaze.

~Charles Baudelaire

The more a man cultivates the arts the less he fornicates. A more and more apparent cleavage occurs between the spirit and the brute.

~Charles Baudelaire

For each letter received from a creditor, write fifty lines on an extraterrestrial subject and you will be saved.

~Charles Baudelaire

Where are the dogs going? you people who pay so little attention ask. They are going about their business. And they are very punctilious, without wallets, notes, and without briefcases.

~Charles Baudelaire

To handle a language skillfully is to practice a kind of evocative sorcery.

~Charles Baudelaire

What can an eternity of damnation matter to someone who has felt, if only for a second, the infinity of delight?

~Charles Baudelaire

It is by universal misunderstanding that all agree. For if, by ill luck, people understood each other, they would never agree.

~Charles Baudelaire

The habit of doing one's duty drives away fear.

~Charles Baudelaire

No task is a long one but the task on which one dare not start. It becomes a nightmare.

~Charles Baudelaire

Extract the eternal from the ephemeral.

~Charles Baudelaire

The will to work must dominate, for art is long and time is brief.

~Charles Baudelaire

Here comes the time when, vibrating on its stem, every flower fumes like a censer; noises and perfumes circle in the evening air.

~Charles Baudelaire

Let us beware of common folk, of common sense, of sentiment, of inspiration, and of the obvious.

~Charles Baudelaire

To the solemn graves, near a lonely cemetery, my heart like a muffled drum is beating funeral marches.

~Charles Baudelaire

Progress, this great heresy of decay.

~Charles Baudelaire

The life of our city is rich in poetic and marvelous subjects. We are enveloped and steeped as though in an atmosphere of the marvelous; but we do not notice it.

~Charles Baudelaire

It would be difficult for me not to conclude that the most perfect type of masculine beauty is Satan, as portrayed by Milton.

~Charles Baudelaire

Everything for me becomes allegory

~Charles Baudelaire

In putting off what one has to do, one runs the risk of never being able to do it.

~Charles Baudelaire

Finer than any sand are dusts of gold that gleam, Vague starpoints, in the mystic iris of their eyes.

~Charles Baudelaire

It is time to get drunk! So as not to be the martyred slaves of Time, get drunk; get drunk without stopping! On wine, on poetry, or on virtue, as you wish.

~Charles Baudelaire

We love women in proportion to their degree of strangeness to us.

~Charles Baudelaire

Our squalid society rushed, Narcissus to a man, to gaze on its trivial image on a scrap of metal.

~Charles Baudelaire

Drowsing, they take the noble attitude of a great sphinx, who, in a desert land, sleeps always, dreaming dreams that have no end.

~Charles Baudelaire

The world only goes round by misunderstanding.

~Charles Baudelaire

Anybody, providing he knows how to be amusing, has the right to talk about himself.

~Charles Baudelaire

Discover day to day excitement.

~Charles Baudelaire

It is easy to understand why the rabble dislike cats. A cat is beautiful; it suggests ideas of luxury, cleanliness, voluptuous pleasures.

~Charles Baudelaire

Hashish will be, indeed, for the impressions and familiar thoughts of the man, a mirror which magnifies, yet no more than a mirror.

~Charles Baudelaire

Nature... is nothing but the inner voice of self-interest.

~Charles Baudelaire

Nearly all our originality comes from the stamp that time impresses upon our sensibility.

~Charles Baudelaire

Whether you come from heaven or hell, what does it matter, O Beauty!

~Charles Baudelaire

Even in the centuries which appear to us to be the most monstrous and foolish, the immortal appetite for beauty has always found satisfaction.

~Charles Baudelaire

I can barely conceive of a type of beauty in which there is no Melancholy.

~Charles Baudelaire

I have more memories than if I were a thousand years old.

~Charles Baudelaire

Everything that is beautiful and noble is the product of reason and calculation.

~Charles Baudelaire

There exist only three beings worthy of respect: the priest, the soldier, the poet. To know, to kill, to create.

~Charles Baudelaire

What do I care if you are good? Be beautiful! and be sad!

~Charles Baudelaire

The cannon thunders... limbs fly in all directions... one can hear the groans of victims and the howling of those performing the sacrifice... it's Humanity in search of happiness.

~Charles Baudelaire

But the true voyagers are only those who leave
Just to be leaving;
hearts light, like balloons,
They never turn aside from their fatality
And without knowing why they always say: "Let's go!"

~Charles Baudelaire

Romanticism is precisely situated neither in choice of subject, nor exact truth, but in the way of feeling.

~Charles Baudelaire

A silent mouth is sweet to hear.

~Charles Baudelaire

Beware of all the paradoxical in love. It is simplicity which saves, it is simplicity which brings happiness...Love should be love.

~Charles Baudelaire

Any man who does not accept the conditions of life sells his soul.

~Charles Baudelaire

We all have the republican spirit in our veins, like syphilis in our bones.
We are democratized and venerealized.

~Charles Baudelaire

Even as a child I felt in my heart two opposite emotions: the horror of life and the ecstasy of life.

~Charles Baudelaire

The dance can reveal everything mysterious that is hidden in music, and it has the additional merit of being human and palpable. Dancing is poetry with arms and legs.

~Charles Baudelaire

Inspiration comes of working every day.

~Charles Baudelaire

The immense appetite we have for biography comes from a deep-seated sense of equality.

~Charles Baudelaire

There is no such thing as a long piece of work, except one that you dare not start.

~Charles Baudelaire

What is love? The need of coming out of one's self.

~Charles Baudelaire

Strangeness is the indispensable condiment of all beauty.

~Charles Baudelaire

I felt passing over me the wind of the wing of madness.

~Charles Baudelaire

Immediate work, even poor, is worth more than dreams.

~Charles Baudelaire

The more delicate and ambitious the soul, the further do dreams estrange it from possible things.

~Charles Baudelaire

Life swarms with innocent monsters.

~Charles Baudelaire

Common sense tells us that the things of the earth exist only a little, and that true reality is only in dreams.

~Charles Baudelaire

Everything that gives pleasure has its reason. To scorn the mobs of those who go astray is not the means to bring them around.

~Charles Baudelaire

It is at despair at not being able to be noble and beautiful by natural means that we have made up our faces so strangely.

~Charles Baudelaire

I am the wound and the knife! I am the slap and the cheek! I am the limbs and the rack, And the victim and the executioner! I am the vampire of my own heart.

~Charles Baudelaire

A man who drinks only water has a secret to hide from his fellow men.

~Charles Baudelaire

Photographers, you will never become artists. All you are is mere copiers.

~Charles Baudelaire

Unable to suppress love, the Church wanted at least to disinfect it, and it created marriage.

~Charles Baudelaire

Genius is childhood recalled at will.

~Charles Baudelaire

As a remedy against all ills - poverty, sickness, and melancholy - only one thing is absolutely necessary: a liking for work

~Charles Baudelaire

Soon we will plunge ourselves into cold shadows, and all of summer's stunning afternoons will be gone. I already hear the dead thuds of logs below falling on the cobblestones and the lawn.

~Charles Baudelaire

In this horror of solitude, this need to lose his ego in exterior flesh, which man calls grandly the need for love.

~Charles Baudelaire

Today I felt pass over me A breath of wind from the wings of madness.

~Charles Baudelaire

Two fundamental literary qualities: supernaturalism and irony.

~Charles Baudelaire

There is no sweeter pleasure than to surprise a man by giving him more than he hopes for.

~Charles Baudelaire

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