

This bachelor thesis is focused on aesthetic thinking of Charles Baudelaire. I will mostly focus on Baudelaire's theoretic works between critical thoughts about art and reflection on a changing society. As the key source I will use Baudelaire's 'salons' about art and the essay *The Painter of Modern Life* from 1863 where he defines the term modernity.

In the final part of the thesis I will concentrate on Baudelaire's thinking in the view of aesthetic theory of the 20th century. My primary source will be the works of Walter Benjamin who wrote a collection of essays about Baudelaire and considered him the first modern author. He uses Baudelaire's thoughts for making observations about urbanism and modernity. These observations go beyond art theory and we can understand them as reflection of historical and social changes in Paris of the 19th century which is relevant also to theories of the 20th century.