

Baudelaire and Balzac: Echoes and Affinities

The article proposes to study echoes of Balzac's *L'Enfant maudit* and *La Peau de chagrin* that reverberate in Baudelaire's *Les Fleurs du mal* at the stylistic or visionary level. In the cognitive view espoused here Baudelaire's dynamic patterns, word formulations and images, have reached their final status of a radically new creation, but at the same time they betray the existence of echoes harking back to the energy and tonality of a previous vision. These echoes represent affinities that surface at the level of verbal organization in Baudelaire's poems and reflect the novelist's and the poet's visionary kinship.