



Night, Swan, Melancholy

Michelangelo and Baudelaire

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Abstract: This article takes the ancient remark by E. Wind, who conjectured that Baudelaire, evoking Michelangelo's sculpture, *The Night*, in his sonnet *The Ideal*, was also thinking of another work by the artist, *Leda and the Swan*, as its starting point. This assumption allows us to see the correspondences between these two melancholic artistes, both inclined to the *inversio*. Between *Leda's* ecstasy and *The Night's* lethargy can come the motif of the swan, so rich in symbolic values.

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