



CRYSTAL CALLIGRAPHY

The crystal calligraphy of American glass blower Paul Seide was developed from his desire to transcend all language barriers and to find an internationally understandable style for Charles Baudelaire's famous poem "The Wine of Love". Paul Seide's mysteriously resplendent light installation symbolises the central lines of the poem, which are written on the wall beside the works of art:

*Angel for eternity
Suffering in a shivering fit
Through the morning's blue crystal
Away in the bright universe!*

Charles Baudelaire, Poem-Nr.CXXXII
From: "Les fleurs du mal" ("The Flowers of Evil")
Translation by Stefan George

Biography Paul Seide

Glass blower Paul Seide was born in the USA in 1949 and studied at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. He also received a certificate from the "Egani Neon Glassblowing School" in New York. Soon his works were being displayed at several New York galleries and also at international exhibitions. Paul Seide is considered *THE* innovator of neon technology, which he perfects with constant finesse.

Seide lost his New York Studio during the September 11 terrorist attacks and since then has been working on its reconstruction.

Biographie Charles Baudelaire

The author Charles-Pierre Baudelaire was born on April 9, 1821 in Paris. He is considered to be one of the city's most famous poets and was one of the most important pioneers of modern European literary trends. At the age of 36, he published the work that would induct him into literature history: *Les Fleurs du Mal*, a collection of 100 poems, which were written around 1840.



The basic tenet of these formal and sophisticated, albeit short poems is usually disillusion and melancholy; man appears torn between good and evil. Despite the outstanding quality of the poems, his economic success was rather limited. The historical significance of Baudelaire's works is in how it used poetry to integrate a dark world into that of the big, thus revealing the realities of the then overcrowded and dirty city of Paris. The city is also a frequent topic of his lyric prose, which Baudelaire started writing in 1855. The posthumous collection, published in 1869 as *Le Spleen de Paris* – represented a new literary genre, the “*poème en prose*”.

Baudelaire unfortunately did not live to experience his renaissance: he died on August 31, 1867 at the age of 46 in a Paris nursing home.