

Quotes on Art and Artists



*Mankind's Wisdom on Art
from
Plato to Picasso*

Quotes on Art and Artists
Mankind's Wisdom on Art
from Plato to Picasso

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Edited by Laura Wertz

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For Artists and their Art



Peter Paul Rubens

*Art washes from the soul
the dust of everyday life.*

Pablo Picasso



Paul Gauguin

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Color in a picture is like enthusiasm in life.

Vincent van Gogh

*An artist is a dreamer consenting
to dream of the actual world.*

George Santayana

*A beautiful thing never gives so much pain
as does failing to hear and see it.*

Michelangelo

*Where the spirit does not work with the hand,
there is no art.*

Leonardo da Vinci

*Every artist dips his brush into his own soul
and paints his own nature into it.*

Henry Ward Beecher

*Art is not a mirror held up to reality,
but a hammer with which to shape it.*

Bertolt Brecht

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Claude Monet

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*Blessed are they who see
beautiful things in humble places
where other people see nothing.*

Camille Pissarro

Great art picks up where nature ends.

Marc Chagall

*The artists does not tinker with the universe,
he recreates it out of his own experience
and understanding of life.*

Henry Miller

*No amount of skillful invention can
replace the essential element of imagination.*

Edward Hopper

Art flourishes where there is a sense of adventure.

Alfred North Whitehead

Every art requires the whole person.

French Proverb

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Mao

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*Only in art will the lion lie down with the lamb,
and the rose grow without thorn.*

Martin Amis

*Some painters transform the sun into a yellow spot.
Others transform a yellow spot into the sun.*

Pablo Picasso

*The effort of art is to keep what is interesting
in existence; to recreate it in the eternal.*

George Santayana

*Every great work of art has two faces,
one toward its own time and one
toward the future, toward eternity.*

Anon

*The greatness of art is not to find
what is common, but what is unique.*

Isaac Bashevis Singer

Art must take reality by surprise.

F. Sagan

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Jan van Goyen

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*I found I could say things with color and shapes
that I couldn't say any other way -
things I had no words for.*

Georgia O'Keefe

There is no must in art because it is free.

Wassily Kandinsky

*A work of art is above all
and adventure of the mind.*

Eugene Ionesco

Space is the breath of art.

Frank Lloyd Wright

*Vision is the art of seeing
what is invisible to others.*

Anon

*The artist should open the eyes of the
viewer to overlooked beauty
that is sometimes right in front of us.*

Kenn Backhaus

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Claude Lorraine

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Art is the proper task of life.

Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche

*Drawing is still basically the same as it has
been since prehistoric times. It brings together man
and the world. It lives through magic.*

Keith Haring

*Art is a way of expression that has to be
understood by everyone, everywhere.*

Rufino Tamayo

*Art is born of the observation and
investigation of nature.*

Cicero

Art takes nature as its model.

Aristotle

Everyone wants to understand painting.

*Why is there no attempt to
understand the song of the birds?*

Pablo Picasso

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Johan Barthold Jongkind

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*I often think the night is more alive and
more richly colored than the day.*

Vincent van Gogh

*I think it pisses God off if you walk by the color
purple in a field somewhere and don't notice it.*

Alice Walker, The Color Purple

*It is the artist's business to
create sunshine when the sun fails.*

ANON

*Keep your love of nature, for that is the
true way to understand art more and more.*

Vincent van Gogh

I close my eyes in order to see.

Paul Gauguin

*Nature is painting for us,
day after day, pictures of infinite beauty.*

John Ruskin

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Michelangelo

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*Art is the expression of the
immortal part of man.*

Ignace Paderewski

*Art, when really understood, is the
province of every human being.*

Robert Henri

*Art has continuously broadened our horizons,
increasing our awareness
and our tolerance of the world as it is.*

Ernst Lurker

Art teaches nothing, except the significance of life.

Henry Miller

*Art is about giving the viewer something
that they could never imagine.*

Brad Greek

*I saw the angel in the marble
and carved until I set him free.*

Michelangelo

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Alexej Kondratjewitsch Samrassow

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*Art is not what you see,
but what you make others see.*

Edgar Degas

*At least 50% of my artwork is that which the
viewer brings to it. If a viewer doesn't
contribute his own ideas and conclusions,
I'd feel my work was a profound failure.*

Ira Crowe

*I see drawings and pictures in the poorest
of huts and the dirties of corners.*

Vincent van Gogh

*Imagination will often carry us
to worlds that never were.
But without it, we go nowhere.*

Carl Sagan

*To send light into the darkness of men's
hearts - such is the duty of the artist.*

Robert A. Schumann

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Maler der Grabkammer des Menna

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*Art is like a border of flowers
along the course of civilization.*

Lincoln Steffens

Art is the signature of civilizations.

Beverly Sills

*Art has continuously broadened our horizon,
increasing our awareness
and our tolerance of the world as it is.*

Ernst Lurker

*Science and art belong to the whole world,
and before them vanish
the barriers of nationality.*

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

*The artist brings something into the world that didn't
exist before, and he does it without destroying
something else - a kind of refutation of the
conservation of matter.*

John Updike

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Leonardo da Vinci

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*Art arises when the secret vision
of the artist and the manifestation of nature
agree to find new shapes.*

Kahlil Gibran

*If art is to nourish the roots of our culture,
society must set the artist free to
follow his vision wherever it takes him.*

John F. Kennedy

*Art results, not when there is nothing
that can be added, but when
there is nothing that can be taken away.*

James Collins

*Art is only an aspect of our evolutionary process
amid the long struggle to know
and experience everything imaginable.*

Nic East

*It is art that makes life, makes interest, makes
importance and I know of no substitute whatever for
the force and beauty of its process.*

Henry James

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Edgar Degas

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*What is essential in a work of art is that
it should rise far above the realm
of personal life and speak to
the spirit and heart of mankind.*

Carl Gustav Jung

*All the arts, poetry, music, ritual, the visible arts,
the theater, must singly and together
create the most comprehensive art of all,
a humanized society,
and its masterpiece, free man.*

Bernard Berenson

*The arts are an even better barometer
of what is happening in our world
than the stock market
or the debates in Congress.*

Hendrik Willem Van Loon

*Culture is something that evolves out of
the simple, enduring elements of everyday life;
elements most truthfully expressed in
the folk arts and crafts of a nation.*

Thor Hansen

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Pompejanischer Maler

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*Art is the stored honey of the human soul
fathered on wings of misery and travail.*

Theodore Dreiser

*Painting is silent poetry,
and poetry is painting that speaks.*

Simonides

*To affect the quality of the day,
that is the highest of the arts.*

Anon

*Art is unquestionably one of the
highest elements in human happiness.*

Anon

*If you ask me what I came to do in this world,
I, as an artist, will answer you.
I came to live out loud.*

Emile Zola

At moments, we are all artists.

Arnold Bennett

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Caravaggio

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*What art offers is space -
a certain breathing room for the spirit.*

John Updike

*The dignity of the artist lies in his duty of
keeping awake the sense of wonder in the world.*

Gilbert Chesterton

Art is man's expression of his joy in labor.

Henry Kissinger

As the sun colors flowers, so does art color life.

John Lubbock

I dream my painting and then paint my dream.

Vincent van Gogh

To draw, you must close your eyes and sing.

Pablo Picasso

*Every genuine work of art has as much
reason for being as the earth and the sun.*

Ralph Waldo Emerson

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Francois Boucher

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*The beautiful is in nature, and it is encountered
under the most diverse forms of reality.
Once it is found it belongs to art,
or rather to the artist who discovers it.*

Gustave Courbet

*He who works with his hands is a laborer.
He who works with his hands
and his head is a craftsman.
He who works with his hands and
his head and his heart is an artist.*

St. Francis of Assisi

*The aim of every artist is to arrest motion,
which is life, by artificial means and hold
it fixed so that a hundred years later,
when a stranger looks at it,
it moves again, since it is life.*

William Faulkner

*Art completes what nature cannot bring
to finish. The artist gives us knowledge
of nature's unrealized ends.*

Aristotle

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Pieter Claesz

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*Art is the expression of those beauties
and emotions that stir the human soul.*

Howard Pyle

*We should comport ourselves with the masterpieces
of art as with exalted personages - stand quietly
before them and wait until they speak to us.*

Arthur Schopenhauer

*The purpose of art is to create an emotional
response in the person that is exposed to the art.
Great art will make you feel an emotion
you have never felt before.*

Paul O'Neill

*To create one's own world in
any of the arts takes courage.*

Georgia O'Keefe

*Without art, the view
of the world would be incomplete.*

Conrad Fiedler

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Jan Davidsz de Heem

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*All art, whether it pleases us or not,
helps to add color, excitement, joy or sadness
and, most often, a sense of awe
to our life's experience.*

Henry O. Dormann

*As artists, we are manifesting thought
into reality every time we create.*

Cristina Acosta

*Art is the demonstration that
the ordinary is extraordinary.*

Amédée Ozenfant

*A work of art is a world in itself, reflecting
senses and emotions of the artist's world.*

Hans Hoffman

*Art does not reproduce the visible;
rather it make visible.*

Paul Klee

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John William Waterhouse

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*The artist's world is limitless.
It can be found anywhere, far from
where he lives or a few feet away.
It is always on his doorstep.*

Paul Strand

*Artists are the people among us who
realize creation didn't stop on the sixth day.*

Joel Peter Witkin

*Good art is not what it looks like,
but what it does to us.*

Roy Adzak

*Every time an artist dies, part of the vision
of mankind passes with him.*

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Art cannot be copied. It must be created.

Anon

Art is not the bread of life, but the wine.

John Paul Richter

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Vincent van Gogh

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*What makes people the world over stand in line for
Van Gogh is not that they will see beautiful pictures,
but that in an indefinable way, they will
com away feeling better human beings.
And that is exactly what Van Gogh hoped for.*

John Russell

*In every block of marble I see a statue
as plain as though it stood before me,
shaped and perfect in attitude and action.
I have only to hew away the rough walls
that imprison the lovely apparition
to reveal it to other eyes as mine see it.*

Michelangelo

*The painting has a life of its own.
I try to let it come through.*

Jackson Pollack

*There are two men inside the artist,
the poet and the craftsman.*

*One is born a poet.
One becomes a craftsman.*

Emile Zola

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August Macke

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*What that man create creates by means of reason
will pale before the art of inspired beings.*

Plato

*Art condenses the experience we all
have as human beings...
Basically, art is an affirmation of life.*

Trevor Bell

*What was any art, but a mold in which to
imprison for a moment, the shining, elusive
element which is life itself.*

Willa Cather

Art is the triumph over chaos.

John Cheever

*Art points is in new directions
that make us think and question.*

Warren Criswell

*Art is an effort to create, beside the real world,
a more human world.*

Anon

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Paul Cezanne

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*Art is a staple of mankind - so urgent,
so utterly linked with the pulse of feeling
that it becomes the singular sign of life
when every other aspect of civilization fails.*

Jamake Highwater

*Art must touch our lives, our fears and cares -
evoke our dreams and give hope to the darkness.*

Frederick Hart

Art is the flower of life and, as seed, it gives back life.

Remy de Gourmont

*Whatever adds richness to the experience
of being alive is an art.*

Quang Ho

*Art is the soul and spirit of each generation
to be passed along to the next, and beyond.*

Stewart Turcotte

*Every nation which has made a lasting contribution
to mankind has been aware of its artists.*

Harry J. Boyle

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Joseph Mallord William Turner

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*Art thaws even the frozen, darkened soul,
opening it to lofty spiritual experience.*

Aleksander Solzhenitsyn

*Art is, after all, only a trace - like a footprint which
shows that one has walked bravely
and in great happiness.*

Robert Henri

Art is the journey of a free soul.

Alev Oguz

*Art, being quite useless except to the soul,
is the highest of all human endeavors.*

Bruce Rogers

*Art is an outsider,
a gypsy over the face of the earth.*

Robert Henri

To be an artist is to believe in life.

Henry Moore

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Rembrandt

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*Sitting softly by the sea
The artist paints eternity.
He paints the air, the ocean surf
The quiet day, the silent earth.*

*He paints the sky a silver gray,
The seagulls flying far away.
The wind becomes a roiling surf
The waves change course, and then they burst.*

*He paints the surge, the churning shore
The crimson sky and splintered oars
The shattered boat on raging seas
The sailors cries and homeward pleas.*

*He paints the day becoming calm
The air refreshed with mid-day balm
Just sitting softly by the sea
The artist and eternity.*

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*"As music is the poetry of sound,
so is painting the poetry of sight."*

James Whistler

*Exquisitely illustrated with some of the
greatest masterpieces of all time,
this book is a celebration of life through art.*

The perfect gift for young and old alike,

*Quotes on Art and Artists
is both an introduction to the world of art
and a celebration of civilization's
greatest artistic creations.*

*Theodore Dreiser called art,
"the stored honey of the human soul."*

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