

Anne Waldman

Quotes

*Thinking, People, Father, War, Ideas, Writing, Years, Mind, Ethos, Dream, Real,
Kind, School, World, Cities, Vision, America, Reading, Land, Language*

If I smashed the traditions it was because I knew no traditions. I'm the girl with the unquenchable thirst.

~Anne Waldman

We can think for ourselves and we can awaken the world to a greater consciousness.

~Anne Waldman

I took my vow to poetry; this is where I'm going to be. These are my people; this is my tribe. This is where I'm going to put my energy.

~Anne Waldman

Our need to reimagine our world through the vibratory larynx, that's what matters. Re-awaken the world to itself. Through ideas, pictures, sounds. Hold the mirror up to "nature."

~Anne Waldman

As a woman I have felt encouraged and fed by and nurtured by the work of [Jack] Kerouac and others.

~Anne Waldman

A lot of my life has involved with helping create cultures that have as their basis this vision of the sharing, the partaking of a certain ethos together.

~Anne Waldman

We need a world-wide Department of Peace.

~Anne Waldman

Contemporary movies just drive me crazy. The violence and the sentimentality and the spiritual materialism and Theism and the incredible indulgence in ignorance is so claustrophobic.

~Anne Waldman

My older brother was involved in the folk movement. We would gather every weekend in Washington Park. The folk songs were so important to my reality.

~Anne Waldman

I still had to correct Allen Ginsberg at times when he called women girls. I'd say. Allen please, it's not politically correct.

~Anne Waldman

My last bedside conversation in the hospital just a few weeks before Allen Ginsberg died was 'please take care of so and so. And the legacy of the Kerouac school.

~Anne Waldman

I was going to public school in the post-World War II, the grey doldrum years. But I was in this extraordinary environment of Manhattan, of Greenwich Village, of bohemian parents.

~Anne Waldman

I was not ever hitchhiking alone. I've done solo train trips but I've never driven myself alone.

~Anne Waldman

I think of my father born in this very small, limited situation and then coming out of that. Many people have this story.

~Anne Waldman

My mother started taking us to church when I was in seventh or eighth grade. That was always a question, Do you believe in God?

~Anne Waldman

My father was a frustrated writer. I think he wanted to write the great American novel.

~Anne Waldman

What I propose for the "life of a poet" goes against the grain of the fossil fuel monoculture. Maybe the most revolutionary act these days is not to watch television and to read a book a day at least.

~Anne Waldman

I grew up in New York City in Greenwich Village and had parents who were somewhat bohemian so I was always on the nonconformist side of the equation.

~Anne Waldman

Certainly the beat writers I've known who carried forward the original, you know, I'd say that came together in the 1940s and 50s. So I was inheriting in a way some of that ethos.

~Anne Waldman

Poets have to keep pushing, pushing, against the darkness, and write their way out of it as well.

~Anne Waldman

This will be a good time for poetry, you know, when things get darker and stranger and your very speech is being questioned and the sense of trusting that human thing.

~Anne Waldman

There's a numbness in our culture to the continuing horrors of genocide.

~Anne Waldman

Personally there is first: imagination; second: the act of writing - and third: the act/act of vocalizing.

~Anne Waldman

Any technology is just a skillful means and it's how you use it.

~Anne Waldman

I am a self-appointed ambassador for poetry.

~Anne Waldman

The sense of the preciousness of the body - vehicle for poetry.

~Anne Waldman

For me poems are acts re-done, and that can vibrate well into the future.

~Anne Waldman

As a younger person you can come in through many, many gateways. It's like some huge Mandela. You can enter into this and get refreshed.

~Anne Waldman

Allen's [Gisberg] loyalty to his friends was extraordinary. And as he was dying he was calling people: "What can I do for you before I die? Do you need money? What can I do?".

~Anne Waldman

The sense of traveling this continent, also other continents. The friendship. I would say a non-competitive friendship. That is so amazing to me.

~Anne Waldman

Connection to Buddhism is strand in my life.

~Anne Waldman

What I'm after is that wakeful state through language that stays alive.

~Anne Waldman

It's so rich as a trope - the whole idea of the road and it being in terms of language, being an active experience.

~Anne Waldman

For me the road became a zone, in places like Saint Marks poetry Project where I worked for 12 years.

~Anne Waldman

The music is notated first, the text follows. I might have to wait until the right kind of text or form arises. I often see the poems as â€œscores.â€•

~Anne Waldman

I think of the amazing things that were going on. So it's so rich. The doors keep opening.

~Anne Waldman

You really felt a radical shift in the advance of a poetics that had really been engendered by [Walt] Whitman. This was very exciting. I wanted to work in this environment.

~Anne Waldman

Myths, by their definition, involve transformations, struggles through various worlds or layers of reality and of obscuration.

~Anne Waldman

I am a poet, bard, scop, minnesinger, trobairitz who is driven by sound and the possibilities for vocal expression, the mouthing of text as well as intentionality or dance on the page.

~Anne Waldman

I'm curious about other universes, and nonhuman elementals. For me it's still a very lively ethos. It's a kind of practice. It's an ethos that is very sustaining.

~Anne Waldman

I have students whose fathers are voting for Sarah Palin. It's wild.

~Anne Waldman

The whole red state/blue state thing is very interesting. Watching that shift over the years.

~Anne Waldman

We humans need to do better with our vast minds and alchemical powers. Future radial poetries might be more symbiotic with the rest of consciousness.

~Anne Waldman

My teachers were often very eccentric.

~Anne Waldman

I remember being caught in this earthquake in Mexico City and having a sense of people coming before me, of being part of this lineage. I felt similarly when I went to India and South America.

~Anne Waldman

Think of the road as a kind of zone and a site of incredible diversity.

~Anne Waldman

I hope I'm not implying role of contemporary poet for myself, although there's a kind of resonant paradigm. It's traditionally a difficult role.

~Anne Waldman

I was raised with a sense of democratic vistas and egalitarianism.

~Anne Waldman

For me there is a poesis, a poetics, around the trope of the road that is embedded within many life experiences of the people I've been close to.

~Anne Waldman

When I look at my life there are these streams, these things that have continuity from the fifties to now.

~Anne Waldman

I think the idea of the lone tormented artist - which we can apply to others - I think that it needs to be revisited. Jack Kerouac needs to be seen in the context of a lot of other artistic activity.

~Anne Waldman

I think Visions of Cody is the most radical book in terms of poetic stretch and the way Jack Kerouac is able to incorporate documentation and incorporate the live tape recording of Neal and so on.

~Anne Waldman

If you can integrate your life to have a kind of meditative practice that is considering others.

~Anne Waldman

There's a kind of training, when you are sitting in a session in the Japanese tradition or any of the Buddhist traditions, taking your lotus posture or whatever it is. That's what you're doing.

~Anne Waldman

I get very upset when money is being cut and people can't visit the Grand Canyon.

~Anne Waldman

I think anything that gets people outside [is good] - I'm a big supporter of public parks and public spaces.

~Anne Waldman

I like the idea of the object, the relic. And I see it as a time machine too or a device you plug into a socket that activates a sound and light show.

~Anne Waldman

World War II synchronizes things for a lot of people. There's a kind of wakeup call.

~Anne Waldman

There are energies that reside in each phone and phoneme. And we can release them.

~Anne Waldman

I'm drawn to the magical efficacies of language as a political act.

~Anne Waldman

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