

Antonin Artaud

Quotes

*Men, Theatre, Order, Suicide, Ideas, Heart, Writing, Art, Reality, Believe,
Dream, Mind, Suicidal, Actors, Magic, Mean, Soul, People, War, Light*

A real theatrical experience shakes the calm of the senses, liberates the compressed unconscious and drives towards a kind of potential revolt . . .

~Antonin Artaud

No one has ever written, painted, sculpted, modeled, built, or invented except literally to get out of hell.

~Antonin Artaud

The actor is an athlete of the heart.

~Antonin Artaud

There is in every madman a misunderstood genius whose idea, shining in his head, frightened people, and for whom delirium was the only solution to the strangulation that life had prepared for him.

~Antonin Artaud

I cannot conceive any work of art as having a separate existence from life itself

~Antonin Artaud

To break through language in order to touch life is to create or re-create the theater.

~Antonin Artaud

I abandon myself to the fever of dreams, in search for new laws.

~Antonin Artaud

I have need of angels. Enough hell has swallowed me for too many years. But finally understand this--I have burned up one hundred thousand human lives already, from the strength of my pain.

~Antonin Artaud

This is why true beauty never strikes us directly. The setting sun is

beautiful because of all it makes us lose.

~Antonin Artaud

Tragedy on the stage is no longer enough for me, I shall bring it into my own life.

~Antonin Artaud

I see in the act of throwing the dice and of risking the affirmation of some intuitively felt truth, however uncertain, my whole reason for living.

~Antonin Artaud

Excuse my absolute freedom. I refuse to make a distinction between any of the moments of myself.

~Antonin Artaud

In consciousness dwells the wondrous, with it man attains the realm beyond the material, and the Peyote tells us, where to find it.

~Antonin Artaud

If our life lacks a constant magic it is because we choose to observe our acts and lose ourselves in consideration of their imagined form and meaning, instead of being impelled by their force.

~Antonin Artaud

The true theater, because it moves and makes use of living instruments, continues to stir up shadows where life has never ceased to grope its way.

~Antonin Artaud

Those who live, live off the dead.

~Antonin Artaud

So long as we have failed to eliminate any of the causes of human

despair, we do not have the right to try to eliminate those means by which man tries to cleanse himself of despair.

~Antonin Artaud

If I commit suicide, it will not be to destroy myself but to put myself back together again.

~Antonin Artaud

We do not die because we have to die; we die because one day, and not so long ago, our consciousness was forced to deem it necessary.

~Antonin Artaud

Admittedly or not, conscious or unconscious, the poetic state, a transcendent experience of life, is what the public is fundamentally seeking through love, crime, drugs, war, or insurrection.

~Antonin Artaud

Life consists of burning up questions.

~Antonin Artaud

Don't tire yourself more than need be, even at the price of founding a culture on the fatigue of your bones.

~Antonin Artaud

We have the right to lie, but not about the heart of the matter.

~Antonin Artaud

There are those who go to the theatre as they would go to a brothel.

~Antonin Artaud

I call for actors burning at the stakes, laughing at the flames.

~Antonin Artaud

When we speak the word 'life,' it must be understood we are not

referring to life as we know it from its surface of fact, but to that fragile, fluctuating center which forms never reach.

~Antonin Artaud

In our present state of degeneration it is through the skin that metaphysics must be made to re-enter our minds.

~Antonin Artaud

We must wash literature off ourselves. We want to be men above all, to be human.

~Antonin Artaud

It is not opium which makes me work but its absence, and in order for me to feel its absence it must from time to time be present.

~Antonin Artaud

I prefer the people who eat off the bare earth the delirium from which they were born.

~Antonin Artaud

I would like to write a Book which would drive men mad, which would be like an open door leading them where they would never have consented to go, in short, a door that opens onto reality.

~Antonin Artaud

Leave the caves of being. Come. The mind breathes outside the mind. The time has come to abandon your lodgings. Surrender to the Universal Thought. The Marvelous is at the root of the mind.

~Antonin Artaud

All writing is garbage. People who come out of nowhere to try and put into words any part of what goes on in their minds are pigs.

~Antonin Artaud

All true language is incomprehensible, like the chatter of a beggar's teeth.

~Antonin Artaud

I myself am an absolute abyss.

~Antonin Artaud

There is nothing like an insane asylum for gently incubating death.

~Antonin Artaud

The actor is merely a crude empiricist, a practitioner guided by vague instinct.

~Antonin Artaud

Hell is of this world and there are men who are unhappy escapees from hell, escapees destined ETERNALLY to reenact their escape.

~Antonin Artaud

I know each conversation with a psychiatrist in the morning made me want to hang myself because I knew I could not strangle him.

~Antonin Artaud

I am a man by virtue of my hands and my feet, my belly, my heart of meat, my stomach whose knots reunite me to the putrefaction of life.

~Antonin Artaud

Cruelty signifies rigor, implacable intention and decision, irreversible and absolute determination.

~Antonin Artaud

I am stigmatized by a living death in which real death holds no terrors for me.

~Antonin Artaud

Actors are athletes of the heart.

~Antonin Artaud

The idea of a detached art, of poetry as a charm which exists only to distract our leisure, is a decadent idea and an unmistakable symptom of our power to castrate.

~Antonin Artaud

Cruelty in the theatre is unrelenting decisiveness, diligence, strictness.

~Antonin Artaud

Destroy yourselves, you who are desperate, and you who are tortured in body and soul, abandon all hope. There is no more solace for you in this world. The world lives off your rotting flesh.

~Antonin Artaud

Without sarcasm I sink into chaos.

~Antonin Artaud

Written poetry is worth reading once, and then should be destroyed. Let the dead poets make way for others.

~Antonin Artaud

When I think about myself, my thought seeks itself in the ether of a new space. I am on the moon as others are on their balconies. I participate in planetary gravitation in the fissures of my mind.

~Antonin Artaud

With society and its public, there is no longer any other language than that of bombs, barricades, and all that follows.

~Antonin Artaud

[defines a madman as] a man who preferred to become mad, in the socially accepted sense of the word, rather than forfeit a certain

superior idea of human honor.

~Antonin Artaud

A tainted society has invented psychiatry to defend itself against the investigations of certain superior intellects whose faculties of divination would be troublesome.

~Antonin Artaud

Poetry is a dissociating and anarchic force which through analogy, associations and imagery, thrives on the destruction of known relationships.

~Antonin Artaud

And if there is still one hellish, truly accursed thing in our time, it is our artistic dallying with forms, instead of being like victims burnt at the stake, signaling through the flames.

~Antonin Artaud

You are quite unnecessary, young man!

~Antonin Artaud

So society has strangled in its asylums all those it wanted to get rid of or protect itself from, because they refused to become its accomplices in certain great nastinesses.

~Antonin Artaud

The fixation of the theater in one language--written words, music, lights, noises--betokens its imminent ruin.

~Antonin Artaud

I do not like detached creation. Neither can I conceive of the mind as detached from itself. Each of my works, each diagram of myself, each glacial flowering of my inmost soul dribbles over me.

~Antonin Artaud

Squander your riches far from this unfeeling body to which no season, either spiritual or sensual, makes any difference.

~Antonin Artaud

I do not work within the confines of any realm. I work in the unique moment of duration.

~Antonin Artaud

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