

Barbara Kruger

Quotes

Art, Artist, Thinking, Mean, World, People, Trying, Space, Photography, Real, Ideas, Practice, Want, Believe, Pieces, Moving, Belief, Looks, Understanding, Degrees

I work with pictures and words because they have the ability to determine who we are, what we want to be and what we become.

~Barbara Kruger

I'm trying to deal with ideas about histories, fame, hearsay, and how public identities are constructed.

~Barbara Kruger

Do you know why language manifests itself the way it does in my work? It's because I understand short attention spans.

~Barbara Kruger

I mean, making art is about objectifying your experience of the world, transforming the flow of moments into something visual, or textual, or musical, whatever. Art creates a kind of commentary.

~Barbara Kruger

GIVE YOUR BRAIN AS MUCH ATTENTION AS YOU DO YOUR HAIR AND YOU'LL BE A THOUSAND TIMES BETTER OFF.

~Barbara Kruger

It's good to keep in mind that prominence is always a mix of hard work, eloquence in your practice, good timing and fortuitous social relations. Everything can't be personalized.

~Barbara Kruger

I feel uncomfortable with the term public art, because I'm not sure what it means. If it means what I think it does, then I don't do it. I'm not crazy about categories.

~Barbara Kruger

Seeing is no longer believing. The very notion of truth has been put into crisis. In a world bloated with images, we are finally learning that photographs do indeed lie.

~Barbara Kruger

I think what I'm trying to do is create moments of recognition. To try to detonate some kind of feeling or understanding of lived experience.

~Barbara Kruger

I try to deal with the complexities of power and social life, but as far as the visual presentation goes I purposely avoid a high degree of difficulty.

~Barbara Kruger

Money talks. It makes art. It determines what food we eat, whether we are cured or die, and what shoes we wear.

~Barbara Kruger

I'm living my life, not buying a lifestyle.

~Barbara Kruger

Listen: our culture is saturated with irony whether we know it or not.

~Barbara Kruger

I have no complaints, except for the world.

~Barbara Kruger

I think pictures and words have the power to make us rich or poor.

~Barbara Kruger

I'm an artist who works with pictures and words. Sometimes that stuff ends up in different kinds of sites and contexts which determine what it means and looks like.

~Barbara Kruger

It's a small world, but not if you have to clean it

~Barbara Kruger

Doubt tempers belief with sanity.

~Barbara Kruger

You want it, you buy it, you forget it.

~Barbara Kruger

What I'm trying to do is create moments of recognition.

~Barbara Kruger

I think I developed language skills to deal with threat. It's the girl thing to do-you know, instead of pulling out a gun.

~Barbara Kruger

Art is as heavy as sorrow, as light as a breeze, as bright as an idea, as pretty as a picture, as funny as money, and as fugitive as fraud!

~Barbara Kruger

All violence is the illustration of a pathetic stereotype.

~Barbara Kruger

We are obliged to steal pieces of language, both visual and textual.

~Barbara Kruger

All the gossip and craziness becomes a kind of sustained narrative which, in turn, can become history. It's scary.

~Barbara Kruger

I just say I'm an artist who works with pictures and words.

~Barbara Kruger

Architecture is my first love, if you want to talk about what moves me... the ordering of space, the visual pleasure, architecture's power to construct our days and nights.

~Barbara Kruger

I had to figure out how to bring the world into my work.

~Barbara Kruger

Direct address has been a consistent tactic in my work, regardless of the medium that I'm working in.

~Barbara Kruger

Memory is your image of perfection.

~Barbara Kruger

If most American cities are about the consumption of culture, Los Angeles and New York are about the production of culture - not only national culture but global culture.

~Barbara Kruger

Prominence is cool, but when the delusion kicks in it can be a drag. Especially if you choose to surround yourself with friends and not acolytes.

~Barbara Kruger

I worked with someone else's photos; I cropped them in whatever way I wanted and put words on top of them. I knew how to do it with my eyes closed. Why couldn't that be my art?

~Barbara Kruger

Things change and work changes. Right now I like the idea of enveloping a space and getting messages across that connect to the world in ways that seem familiar but are different.

~Barbara Kruger

I want people to be drawn into the space of the work. And a lot of people are like me in that they have relatively short attention spans. So I shoot for the window of opportunity.

~Barbara Kruger

I think there are different ways of being rigorous, and I am asking people to be as rigorous in their pleasure as in their criticism.

~Barbara Kruger

As with the Princess Di crash, which sent the media on the most insane feeding frenzy. From the moment of the crash, the pornography of sentiment never let up.

~Barbara Kruger

I think people have to set up little battles. They have to demonize people whom they disagree with or feel threatened by. But it's the ideological framing of the debate that scares me.

~Barbara Kruger

I think there are lots of ways to make good work. You can throw big bucks at a project and make what some would call crap, or you can work very modestly with eloquently moving results.

~Barbara Kruger

Although my art work was heavily informed by my design work on a formal and visual level, as regards meaning and content the two practices parted ways.

~Barbara Kruger

I'd always been a news junkie, always read lots of newspapers and watched the Sunday morning news shows on TV and felt strongly about issues of power, control, sexuality and race.

~Barbara Kruger

What makes the production of my work so expensive? The whole installation thing - the construction, the objects, the technology. It really adds up.

~Barbara Kruger

I don't necessarily think that installation is the only way to go. It's just a label for certain kinds of arrangements.

~Barbara Kruger

Look, we're all saddled with things that make us better or worse. This world is a crazy place, and I've chosen to make my work about that insanity.

~Barbara Kruger

I've always thought that it's good to watch the news to find out what everybody else is looking at and believing, if only because that's how consensus is constructed.

~Barbara Kruger

The place of the arts in the classroom is essential in encouraging invention, ambition, and an understanding of the importance and pleasures of living an examined life.

~Barbara Kruger

Love is something you fall into.

~Barbara Kruger

I've always been very tied to language.

~Barbara Kruger

I think that every so-called history book and film biography should be prefaced by the statement that what follows is the author's rendition of events and circumstances.

~Barbara Kruger

I have frequently said, and I will repeat again, in the manner of any well-meaning seriality, that I'm interested in mixing the ingratiating of wishful thinking with the criticality of knowing better.

~Barbara Kruger

Images are made palpable, ironed flat by technology and, in turn, dictate the seemingly real through the representative.

~Barbara Kruger

Belief is tricky because left to its own devices, it can court a kind of surety, an unquestioning allegiance that fears doubt and destroys difference.

~Barbara Kruger

There's a moment of recognition. It's that white-light kind of stuff that just "works." I love that. And you know it when it happens, whether it's a movie, music, a building, a book.

~Barbara Kruger

It entered the visual vocabulary of photographers, painters and sculptors and focused on what pictures and words look like and what they can mean.

~Barbara Kruger

Teaching at university isn't like teaching in an art school.

~Barbara Kruger

I like suggesting that 'we are slaves to the objects around us,' that 'plenty should be enough,' or that the 'buyer should beware,' within the context of conventional selling space.

~Barbara Kruger

You make history when you do business.

~Barbara Kruger

You know, one of the only times I ever wrote about art was the obituary of Warhol that I did for the Village Voice.

~Barbara Kruger

If I bring up political power, personal power, it sounds like they're my terms, and they're not.

~Barbara Kruger

There are so many moments and works that influence us in what we do. Movies, music, TV and, most importantly, the profound everydayness of our lives.

~Barbara Kruger

It's hard for me to understand how working-class people support themselves.

~Barbara Kruger

Warhol's images made sense to me, although I knew nothing at the time of his background in commercial art. To be honest, I didn't think about him a hell of a lot.

~Barbara Kruger

Money talks. It starts rumors about careers and complicity and speaks of the tragedies and triumphs of our social lives.

~Barbara Kruger

I think architecture is one of the predominant orderings of social space. It can construct and contain our experiences. It defines our days and nights. It literally puts us in our place.

~Barbara Kruger

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