

Benoit Mandelbrot

Quotes

*Science, Shapes, Long, Important, Mathematics, Lines, Simple, Chaos, Looks,
Nature, World, Clouds, Littles, Years, Ideas, Pieces, Order, People, France,
Claims*

Fractal geometry is not just a chapter of mathematics, but one that helps Everyman to see the same world differently.

~Benoit Mandelbrot

A fractal is a way of seeing infinity.

~Benoit Mandelbrot

Think of color, pitch, loudness, heaviness, and hotness. Each is the topic of a branch of physics

~Benoit Mandelbrot

Smooth shapes are very rare in the wild but extremely important in the ivory tower and the factory.

~Benoit Mandelbrot

Why is geometry often described as cold and dry? One reason lies in its inability to describe the shape of a cloud, a mountain, a coastline or a tree.

~Benoit Mandelbrot

Bottomless wonders spring from simple rules, which are repeated without end.

~Benoit Mandelbrot

A fractal is a mathematical set or concrete object that is irregular or fragmented at all scales...

~Benoit Mandelbrot

If you have a hammer, use it everywhere you can, but I do not claim that everything is fractal.

~Benoit Mandelbrot

Clouds are not spheres, mountains are not cones, coastlines are not circles, and bark is not smooth, nor does lightning travel in a straight

line.

~Benoit Mandelbrot

Beautiful, damn hard, increasingly useful. That's fractals.

~Benoit Mandelbrot

A cloud is made of billows upon billows upon billows that look like clouds. As you come closer to a cloud you don't get something smooth, but irregularities at a smaller scale.

~Benoit Mandelbrot

Think not of what you see, but what it took to produce what you see.

~Benoit Mandelbrot

A formula can be very simple, and create a universe of bottomless complexity.

~Benoit Mandelbrot

Being a language, mathematics may be used not only to inform but also, among other things, to seduce.

~Benoit Mandelbrot

The theory of chaos and theory of fractals are separate, but have very strong intersections. That is one part of chaos theory is geometrically expressed by fractal shapes.

~Benoit Mandelbrot

The most important thing I have done is to combine something esoteric with a practical issue that affects many people.

~Benoit Mandelbrot

There is a joke that your hammer will always find nails to hit. I find that perfectly acceptable

~Benoit Mandelbrot

The most complex object in mathematics, the Mandelbrot Set ... is so complex as to be uncontrollable by mankind and describable as 'chaos'.

~Benoit Mandelbrot

An extraordinary amount of arrogance is present in any claim of having been the first in inventing something.

~Benoit Mandelbrot

Asking the right questions is as important as answering them

~Benoit Mandelbrot

The techniques I developed for studying turbulence, like weather, also apply to the stock market

~Benoit Mandelbrot

There is a saying that every nice piece of work needs the right person in the right place at the right time.

~Benoit Mandelbrot

For most of my life, one of the persons most baffled by my own work was myself.

~Benoit Mandelbrot

Engineering is too important to wait for science.

~Benoit Mandelbrot

Both chaos theory and fractal have had contacts in the past when they are both impossible to develop and in a certain sense not ready to be developed.

~Benoit Mandelbrot

Nobody will deny that there is at least some roughness everywhere

~Benoit Mandelbrot

Unfortunately, the world has not been designed for the convenience of mathematicians.

~Benoit Mandelbrot

Although computer memory is no longer expensive, there's always a finite size buffer somewhere. When a big piece of news arrives, everybody sends a message to everybody else, and the buffer fills

~Benoit Mandelbrot

I was in an industrial laboratory because academia found me unsuitable

~Benoit Mandelbrot

When people ask me what's my field? I say, on one hand, a fractalist. Perhaps the only one, the only full-time one.

~Benoit Mandelbrot

My fate has been that what I undertook was fully understood only after the fact.

~Benoit Mandelbrot

The Mandelbrot set is the most complex mathematical object known to mankind.

~Benoit Mandelbrot

The straight line has a property of self-similarity. Each piece of the straight line is the same as the whole line when used to a big or small extent.

~Benoit Mandelbrot

Order doesn't come by itself.

~Benoit Mandelbrot

I don't seek power and do not run around

~Benoit Mandelbrot

Pictures were completely eliminated from mathematics; in particular when I was young this happened in a very strong fashion.

~Benoit Mandelbrot

In mathematics and science definition are simple, but bare-bones. Until you get to a problem which you understand it takes hundreds and hundreds of pages and years and years of learning.

~Benoit Mandelbrot

I went to the computer and tried to experiment. I introduced a very high level of experiment in very pure mathematics.

~Benoit Mandelbrot

The rare scholars who are nomads-by-choice are essential to the intellectual welfare of the settled disciplines.

~Benoit Mandelbrot

I had many books and I had dreams of all kinds. Dreams in which were in a certain sense, how to say, easy to make because the near future was always extremely threatening.

~Benoit Mandelbrot

Now that I near 80, I realize with wistful pleasure that on many occasions I was 10, 20, 40, even 50 years ahead of my time.

~Benoit Mandelbrot

In fact, I barely missed being number one in France in both schools. In particular I did very well in mathematical problems.

~Benoit Mandelbrot

I didn't want to become a pure mathematician, as a matter of fact, my uncle was one, so I knew what the pure mathematician was and I did

not want to be a pure - I wanted to do something different.

~Benoit Mandelbrot

I spent my time very nicely in many ways, but not fully satisfactory. Then I became Professor in France, but realized that I was not - for the job that I should spend my life in.

~Benoit Mandelbrot

I had very, very little training in taking an exam to determine a scientist's life in France.

~Benoit Mandelbrot

I didn't feel comfortable at first with pure mathematics, or as a professor of pure mathematics. I wanted to do a little bit of everything and explore the world.

~Benoit Mandelbrot

There are very complex shapes which would be the same from close by and far away.

~Benoit Mandelbrot

For much of my life there was no place where the things I wanted to investigate were of interest to anyone.

~Benoit Mandelbrot

If you look at a shape like a straight line, what's remarkable is that if you look at a straight line from close by, from far away, it is the same; it is a straight line.

~Benoit Mandelbrot

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