

Brian Eno

Quotes

*People, Thinking, Ideas, Art, Interesting, Play, Sound, Song, Musical, Listening,
Long, Writing, World, Feelings, Want, Technology, Important, Mean, Believe,
Moving*

I have lived in countries that were coming out of conflict: Ireland, South Africa, the Czech republic. People there are overflowing with energy.

~Brian Eno

Ambient music must be as ignorable as it is interesting.

~Brian Eno

Stop thinking about art works as objects, and start thinking about them as triggers for experiences.

~Brian Eno

The first Velvet Underground album only sold 10,000 copies, but everyone who bought it formed a band

~Brian Eno

I had wanted a tape recorder since I was tiny. I thought it was a magic thing. I never got one until just before I went to art school.

~Brian Eno

My guitar only has five strings 'cause the top one broke and I decided not to put it back on: when I play chords I only play bar chords, and the top one always used to cut me there.

~Brian Eno

Lyrics are always misleading because they make people think that that's what the music is about.

~Brian Eno

Everything is an experiment until it has a deadline. That gives it a destination, context, and a reason.

~Brian Eno

Well, I am a dilettante. It's only in England that dilettantism is considered a bad thing. In other countries it's called interdisciplinary

research.

~Brian Eno

Ambient Music must be able to accommodate many levels of listening attention without enforcing one in particular; it must be as ignorable as it is interesting.

~Brian Eno

If something is good, you must torture it mercilessly until it is either dead or great.

~Brian Eno

Anything popular is populist, and populist is rarely a good adjective.

~Brian Eno

I felt extremely uncomfortable as the focal point, in the spotlight. I really like the behind the scenes role, because all my freedom is there.

~Brian Eno

American television really is pathetic.

~Brian Eno

The smart thing in the art world is to have one good idea and never have another.

~Brian Eno

Set up a situation that presents you with something slightly beyond your reach.

~Brian Eno

Saying that cultural objects have value is like saying that telephones have conversations.

~Brian Eno

Avant-garde music is sort of research music. You're glad someone's done it but you don't necessarily want to listen to it.

~Brian Eno

If there is a new fascism, it won't come from skinheads and punks; it will come from people who eat granola and think they know how the world should be.

~Brian Eno

I don't like headphones very much, and I rarely listen to music on headphones.

~Brian Eno

I often work by avoidance.

~Brian Eno

I've had quite a lot of luck with dreams. I've often awoken in the night with a phrase or even a whole song in my head.

~Brian Eno

If you had a sign above every studio door saying 'This Studio is a Musical Instrument' it would make such a different approach to recording.

~Brian Eno

Lyrics are the only thing to do with music that haven't been made easier technically.

~Brian Eno

Whenever you listen to a piece of music, what you are actually doing is hearing the latest sentence in a very long story you've been listening to - all the pieces of music you've ever heard.

~Brian Eno

I would like to see a future where artists think that they have a right to contemplate things like global warming.

~Brian Eno

I'd love it if American kids were listening to Muslim music.

~Brian Eno

I think we're about ready for a new feeling to enter music. I think that will come from the Arabic world.

~Brian Eno

Every collaboration helps you grow.

~Brian Eno

I think that sex, drugs, art and religion very much overlap with one another and sometimes one becomes another.

~Brian Eno

We are increasingly likely to find ourselves in places with background music. No composers have thought to write for these modern spaces, which represent 30% of our musical experience.

~Brian Eno

The trouble with New Age music is that there's no evil in it.

~Brian Eno

What matters in modern music is not the part you can write down, the words and the tune, but the rest - the texture, the atmosphere, the references and associations.

~Brian Eno

The point about melody and beat and lyric is that they exist to engage you in a very particular way. They want to occupy your attention.

~Brian Eno

In art, you CAN crash your plane and walk away from it

~Brian Eno

The basis of computer work is predicated on the idea that only the brain makes decisions and only the index finger does the work.

~Brian Eno

I love good, loud speakers.

~Brian Eno

The prospect of music being detachable from time and place meant that one could start to think of music as a part of one's furniture.

~Brian Eno

A part of me has become immortal, out of my control.

~Brian Eno

If you grow up in a very strong religion like Catholicism you certainly cultivate in yourself a certain taste for the intensity of ideas.

~Brian Eno

The philosophical idea that there are no more distances, that we are all just one world, that we are all brothers, is such a drag! I like differences.

~Brian Eno

I believe in singing. I believe in singing together.

~Brian Eno

The computer brings out the worst in some people.

~Brian Eno

Everybody is entertained to death.

~Brian Eno

Don't be ashamed of your own ideas. Most musicians get applauded for sounding like someone else.

~Brian Eno

Good teachers realise that the students are the antenna; they are sensing things that the teachers don't yet sense.

~Brian Eno

Art is not an object, but a trigger for experience.

~Brian Eno

I believe in singing.

~Brian Eno

I hate the way CDs just drone on for bloody hours and you stop caring.

~Brian Eno

If you're in a forest, the quality of the echo is very strange because echoes back off so many surfaces of all those trees that you get this strange, itchy ricochet effect.

~Brian Eno

I'm struck by the insidious, computer-driven tendency to take things out of the domain of muscular activity and put them into the domain of mental activity.

~Brian Eno

For the world to be interesting, you have to be manipulating it all the time.

~Brian Eno

In England and Europe, we have this huge music called ambient - ambient techno, ambient house, ambient hip-hop, ambient this, ambient that.

~Brian Eno

Cooking is a way of listening to the radio.

~Brian Eno

I have a definite talent for convincing people to try something new. I am a good salesman. When I'm on form, I can sell anything.

~Brian Eno

I've got nothing against records - I've spent my life making them - but they are a kind of historical blip.

~Brian Eno

I don't live in the past at all; I'm always wanting to do something new. I make a point of constantly trying to forget and get things out of my mind.

~Brian Eno

You shoot your arrow and then you paint your bulls eye around it, and therefore you have hit the target dead centre.

~Brian Eno

Human development thus far has been fueled and guided by the feeling that things could be, and are probably going to be, better.

~Brian Eno

People tend to play in their comfort zone, so the best things are achieved in a state of surprise, actually.

~Brian Eno

Rationality is what we do to organize the world, to make it possible to predict. Art is the rehearsal for the inapplicability and failure of that process.

~Brian Eno

The dominant theory coming out of Hollywood is that peoples' attention spans are getting shorter and shorter and they need more stimulation.

~Brian Eno

The point about working is not to produce great stuff all the time, but to remain ready for when you can.

~Brian Eno

I'd rather hold one note for an hour and modulate it so that it means something than play 3,000 notes in 15 seconds.

~Brian Eno

It's not the destination that matters. It's the change of scene.

~Brian Eno

Try to make things that can become better in other people's minds than they were in yours.

~Brian Eno

You either believe that people respond to authority, or that they respond to kindness and inclusion. I'm obviously in the latter camp. I think that people respond better to reward than punishment.

~Brian Eno

I enjoy working with complicated equipment. A lot of my things started just with a rhythm box, but I feed it through so many things that what comes out sounds very complex and rich.

~Brian Eno

Law is always better than war.

~Brian Eno

If you watch any good player, they're using different parts of their body and working with instruments that respond to those movements.

They're moving in many dimensions at once.

~Brian Eno

People do dismiss ambient music, don't they? They call it 'easy listening,' as if to suggest that it should be hard to listen to.

~Brian Eno

People assume that the meaning of a song is vested in the lyrics. To me, that has never been the case. There are very few songs that I can think of where I remember the words.

~Brian Eno

Being completely free to choose what to do is actually quite difficult

~Brian Eno

The whole history of pop music had rested on the first person singular, with occasional intrusions of the second person singular.

~Brian Eno

I think audiences are quite comfortable watching something coming into being.

~Brian Eno

One often makes music to supplement one's world.

~Brian Eno

Of course, like anybody I repeat myself endlessly, but I don't know that I'm doing it, usually.

~Brian Eno

Pop is totally results-oriented and there is a very strong feedback loop.

~Brian Eno

John Cage made you realise that there wasn't a thing called noise, it

was just music you hadn't appreciated.

~Brian Eno

I despise computers in many ways. I think they're hopelessly underdeveloped and overrated.

~Brian Eno

Admirers can be a tremendous force for conservatism.

~Brian Eno

The reason conservatives cohere and radicals fight: everyone agrees about fears, no one about visions.

~Brian Eno

I'm very good with technology, I always have been, and with machines in general. They seem not threatening like other people find them, but a source of fun and amusement.

~Brian Eno

Given the chance, i'll die like a baby, on some faraway beach, when the season's over.

~Brian Eno

Sometimes you recognize that there is a category of human experience that has not been identified but everyone knows about it. That is when I find a term to describe it.

~Brian Eno

I'm very opinionated.

~Brian Eno

Every collaboration helps you grow. With Bowie, it's different every time. I know how to create settings, unusual aural environments. That inspires him. He's very quick.

~Brian Eno

At the beginning of the 20th century, the ambition of the great painters was to make paintings that were like music, which was then considered as the noblest art.

~Brian Eno

I see TV as a picture medium rather than a narrative medium.

~Brian Eno

If I had a stock of fabulous sounds I would just always use them. I wouldn't bother to find new ones.

~Brian Eno

Ambient music is intended to induce calm and a space to think.

~Brian Eno

For me it's always contingent on getting a sound-the sound always suggests what kind of melody it should be. So it's always sound first and then the line afterwards.

~Brian Eno

We're going through this super-uptight era, which I think comes entirely from literacy, actually. It's the result of machines that were designed as word processors being used for making music.

~Brian Eno

With all fashion, what we do is play at being somebody else. We play at inhabiting another kind of world.

~Brian Eno

Complexity and intelligence grow from simplicity, not from greater complexity.

~Brian Eno

Every band I've worked with also wants to be countercultural in the sense that they want to feel that they've gone somewhere that nobody else has been.

~Brian Eno

Most of those melodies are me trying to find out what notes fit, and then hitting ones that don't fit in a very interesting way.

~Brian Eno

I think generally playing live is a crap idea. So much of stage work is the presentation of personality, and I've never been interested in that.

~Brian Eno

What people call unemotional just doesn't have a single overriding emotion to it. The things that I like best are the ones that are ambiguous on the emotional level.

~Brian Eno

I can't duplicate my own successes, because part of the creation of that effect is making something happen that you didn't expect

~Brian Eno

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