

Carl Andre

Quotes

Art, Artist, Thinking, Men, People, Way, Children, Long, Block, Littles, Needs, Sculpture, Wonderful, Drinking, Environment, New York, Found, Conscious, Girl, Believe

Art is the exclusion of the unnecessary.

~Carl Andre

A man climbs a mountain because it is there. An artist makes a work of art because it is not there.

~Carl Andre

My art springs from my desire to have things in the world which would otherwise never be there.

~Carl Andre

Art is an intersection of many human needs.

~Carl Andre

What do little kids do? They crawl on the floor and they build with blocks. I just continued to do that for the rest of my life.

~Carl Andre

Art is what we do. Culture is what is done to us. A photograph of an art object is not the art object. An essay about an artist's work is not the artist's work.

~Carl Andre

A place is an area within an environment that has been altered in such a way to make the general environment more conspicuous.

~Carl Andre

Once you turn something into something, its universal usage is over.

~Carl Andre

Why carve? It's a better sculpture that way. I'll never improve the block. So I just started using uncarved blocks.

~Carl Andre

If you're any good as an artist, you have to be doing something nobody else has interest in. Nobody would be interested in my work except a few crazy people.

~Carl Andre

The wood was better before I cut it, than after. I did not improve it in any way.

~Carl Andre

If you forge a Carl Andre, it's just another Carl Andre. It's not like a Vermeer.

~Carl Andre

The world is imperfect, and young people are always trying to perfect it and they always fail - which is a good thing. Who'd want to live in a perfect world?

~Carl Andre

By nature, I am a materialist... It is exactly these impingements upon our sense of touch and so forth that I'm interested in.

~Carl Andre

Matter as matter rather than matter as symbol is a conscious political position, essentially Marxist.

~Carl Andre

An artist, to achieve anything in art, has to finally do the thing that nobody else wants to do and nobody else has thought to do.

~Carl Andre

My art will reflect not necessarily conscious politics but the unanalysed politics of my life.

~Carl Andre

It is futile for an artist to try to create an environment because you have an environment around you all the time. Any living organism has an environment.

~Carl Andre

I grew up in a brick house. What's wrong with bricks? An Englishman took me aside and said, "You have to understand, all the bricklayers in England are Irish, and the English hate the Irish."

~Carl Andre

People are always trading their excess for somebody else's excess. One country has a lot of aluminum so they trade aluminum for sugar. It's the law of supply and demand.

~Carl Andre

Artists tend to be beyond embarrassment the way little children tend to be beyond embarrassment.

~Carl Andre

That's wonderful, but my mind has been destroyed by alcohol.

~Carl Andre

I've often stopped working for long periods.

~Carl Andre

You could own coins but you couldn't have bars of gold. We were on the gold standard. I think it was Nixon who took us off the gold standard.

~Carl Andre

Isn't it wonderful to be an artist whose works have mostly been lost?

~Carl Andre

I didn't study the piano - the piano studied me.

~Carl Andre

Lenin thought abstract art was a conspiracy by the bourgeois to demoralize the proletariat. Yeah, socialist realism!

~Carl Andre

I mean, art for art's sake is ridiculous. Art is for the sake of one's needs.

~Carl Andre

We don't have a single point of view for a road at all, except a moving one, moving along it.

~Carl Andre

When I came to New York, it was cheap!

~Carl Andre

I never drove a car in my life. Given my drinking habits in those days, I would have been dead a long time ago - stumbling out of a bar at 4 a.m. and getting into a car.

~Carl Andre

The girls you picked up from the bars were not the girls you took home to mother.

~Carl Andre

You can always find somebody to beat up. This goes back to the schoolyard. Most men would think, Don't chum with girls. But I chummed with girls.

~Carl Andre

I was one of the first post-studio artists. I used to do my works in the streets. I used to find them in the streets, and I used to leave them in the streets.

~Carl Andre

I didn't like men, but I liked women.

~Carl Andre

I was hanging out and drinking as long as I could afford it, or as long as somebody else could afford it.

~Carl Andre

I'm a feminist. I've always been in favor of women.

~Carl Andre

I've never been a representational artist at all. Most artists have been representational. That's when you discover yourself.

~Carl Andre

Money is a very complicated problem. The history of money is very curious.

~Carl Andre

I think my work is very American because I'm American. But I found that Europeans like uncertainty and doubt.

~Carl Andre

I had no place to put anything. I would give my sculpture away because I had no place to put it.

~Carl Andre

I never stopped doing what I did as a child.

~Carl Andre

Americans understand better than the Europeans and the English that any publicity is good.

~Carl Andre

New York is dead. It's too expensive.

~Carl Andre

It seems with progress you gain certain things and you lose certain things. The automobile replaced the horse and buggy but you lost all of that nice manure.

~Carl Andre

I believe that woman are superior to men.

~Carl Andre

What I made depended on what I found on the street. At least in the beginning, my materials came from the street.

~Carl Andre

I didn't like men because they were so physically competitive. Men are always making a pecking order. "I can beat you up and you can beat him up ..."

~Carl Andre

Look at the chaos of European history. Europeans cannot believe in certainty. But Americans believe in certainty. Americans think this can go on like this forever. Just as it is. No change.

~Carl Andre

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