

Charles Olson

Quotes

Matter, Poet, Poetry, Wind, Death, Law, Born, Imitation, Doe, Desire, Sound, Night, Trying, Atlantis, Crosses, Mind, Devil's Advocate, Sorry, Umpires, Moving

Atlantis will rise again.

~Charles Olson

I hope you're representing the devil's advocate.

~Charles Olson

I have had to learn the simplest things last. Which made for difficulties.

~Charles Olson

Knowledge is the harvest of attention

~Charles Olson

Whatever you have to say, leave The roots on, let them Dangle And the dirt Just to make clear Where they come from.

~Charles Olson

What does not change is the will to change

~Charles Olson

I'm one of the cliches that has grown up.

~Charles Olson

There is a grace of life which is still yours, my dear Europe.

~Charles Olson

An American is a complex of occasions, themselves a geometry of spatial nature.

~Charles Olson

of rhythm is image / of image is knowing / of knowing there is / a construct

~Charles Olson

O.K. I'm running out of appetite. Let this swirl- a bit like Crab Nebula-

do for now.

~Charles Olson

All that matters is that the thing be the thing of the thing.

~Charles Olson

This morning of the small snow I count the blessings, the leak in the faucet which makes of the sink time, the drop of the water on water.

~Charles Olson

When will government cease being a nuisance to everybody?

~Charles Olson

I'm trying to climb up both walls at once.

~Charles Olson

A poem is energy transferred from where the poet got it (he will have some several causations), by way of the poem itself to, all the way over to, the reader.

~Charles Olson

The poem, for me, is simply the first sound realized in the modality of being.

~Charles Olson

We all want what's been suddenly disallowed.

~Charles Olson

I defer to all these other American poets who, for some reason, I both envy and admire.

~Charles Olson

bees dig the plum blossoms

~Charles Olson

I sound like Homer. I mean Winslow Homer.

~Charles Olson

The body whips the soul. In its great desire it demands the elixir In the roar of spring, transmutations.

~Charles Olson

I was playing catch with the European audience.

~Charles Olson

The Canadian voice is still too rustic.

~Charles Olson

You can do anything, really. And that, I think, is one of the exciting possibilities of the present, I swear, is the possibility that the goddamn thing can be modaled throughout.

~Charles Olson

I take space to be the central fact to man born in America. I spell it large because it comes large here. Large and without mercy.

~Charles Olson

There are no hierarchies, no infinite, no such many as mass, there are only/ eyes in all heads,/ to be looked out of.

~Charles Olson

Were all moving, moving, moving. Isn't it nice?

~Charles Olson

The flowers are ravined by bees, the fruit blossoms are thrown to the ground, the wind the rain forces everything.

~Charles Olson

Forgive me if I sleep until I wake up.

~Charles Olson

what pudor pejorocracy affronts how awe, night-rest and neighborhood
can rot what breeds where dirtiness is law what crawls below

~Charles Olson

by night only crazy things like the full moon and the whippoorwill and
us, are busy.

~Charles Olson

ONE PERCEPTION MUST IMMEDIATELY AND DIRECTLY LEAD TO
A FURTHER PERCEPTION

~Charles Olson

what can we do when even the public conveyances sing? how can we
go anywhere, even cross-town how get out of anywhere

~Charles Olson

You can read everybody. It's not even interesting to tell the truth
because to some extent it's false.

~Charles Olson

I'm sorry, but I was born with a towel on my head.

~Charles Olson

Not one death but many, not accumulation but change, the feed-back
proves, the feed-back is the law

~Charles Olson

My life has been given its orders: the seasons seize the soul and the
body, and make mock of any dispersed effort. The hour of death is the
only trespass

~Charles Olson

You don't help people in your poems. I've been trying to help people all my life - that's my trouble

~Charles Olson

love is form, and cannot be without important substance

~Charles Olson

Fact is based upon vulgar matter.

~Charles Olson

I don't live for poetry. I live far more than anybody else does.

~Charles Olson

Is it not the play of the mind we are after? Is it not that that shows a mind is there at all?

~Charles Olson

Dead, hung up indoors, the kingfisher will not indicate a favoring wind, or avert the thunderbolt.

~Charles Olson

And all now is war where so lately there was peace, and the sweet brotherhood, the use of tilled fields.

~Charles Olson

one loves only form, and form only comes into existence when the thing is born.

~Charles Olson

The heroes of the present will retreat to the imitation they are anyhow.

~Charles Olson

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