

Chuck Close

Quotes

Photography, Art, Thinking, Inspiration, Artist, Photographer, Ideas, Color, Important, Giving, Three, Interesting, Long, Painting, Use, Decision, Creation, Lying, Yesterday, Needs

All the fingerprint paintings are done without a grid.

~Chuck Close

Never let anyone define what you are capable of by using parameters that don't apply to you.

~Chuck Close

If you're overwhelmed by the size of a problem, break it down into smaller pieces.

~Chuck Close

The advice I like to give young artists, or really anybody who'll listen to me, is not to wait around for inspiration. Inspiration is for amateurs; the rest of us just show up and get to work.

~Chuck Close

While photography is the easiest medium in which to be competent, it is the hardest in which to develop an idiosyncratic personal vision.

~Chuck Close

Inspiration is for amateurs.

~Chuck Close

Ease is the enemy of the artist. When things get too easy, you're in trouble.

~Chuck Close

I always thought that one of the reasons why a painter likes especially to have other painters look at his or her work is the shared experience of having pushed paint around.

~Chuck Close

The thing that interests me about photography, and why it's different from all other media, is that it's the only medium in which there is even

the possibility of an accidental masterpiece.

~Chuck Close

Inspiration is highly overrated. If you sit around and wait for the clouds to part, it's not liable to ever happen. More often than not, work is salvation.

~Chuck Close

Sculpture occupies real space like we do... you walk around it and relate to it almost as another person or another object.

~Chuck Close

It doesn't upset artists to find out that artists used lenses or mirrors or other aids, but it certainly does upset the art historians.

~Chuck Close

I don't work with inspiration. Inspiration is for amateurs. I just get to work.

~Chuck Close

In my art, I deconstruct and then I reconstruct, so visual perception is one of my primary interests.

~Chuck Close

You don't have to reinvent the wheel every day. Today you will do what you did yesterday, and tomorrow you will do what you did today. Eventually you will get somewhere.

~Chuck Close

Inspiration is for amateurs. professionals work everyday. Personally the best inspiration is a deadline.

~Chuck Close

Part of the joy of looking at art is getting in sync in some ways with the

decision-making process that the artist used and the record that's embedded in the work.

~Chuck Close

The first thing I do is take Polaroids of the sitter - 10 or 12 color Polaroids and eight or 10 black-and whites.

~Chuck Close

You can give the same recipe to ten cooks, and some make it come alive, and some make a flat souffle. A system doesn't guarantee anything.

~Chuck Close

Losing my father at a tender age was extremely important in being able to accept what happened to me later when I became a quadriplegic.

~Chuck Close

Those who are waiting for an epiphany to strike may wait forever. The artist simply goes to work, making art, both good and not so good.

~Chuck Close

Having a routine, knowing what to do, gives me a sense of freedom and keeps me from going crazy. It's calming.

~Chuck Close

I have always attempted to create images that deliver the maximum amount of information about the subject.

~Chuck Close

I build a painting by putting little marks together-some look like hot dogs, some like doughnuts.

~Chuck Close

I'm plagued with indecision in my life. I can't figure out what to order in

a restaurant.

~Chuck Close

I'm very learning-disabled, and I think it drove me to what I'm doing.

~Chuck Close

I only use three primaries, so the nice thing is I can't have favorite colors.

~Chuck Close

What difference does it make whether you're looking at a photograph or looking at a still life in front of you? You still have to look.

~Chuck Close

It's always a pleasure to talk about someone else's work.

~Chuck Close

I can't always reach the image in my mind... almost never, in fact... so that the abstract image I create is not quite there, but it gets to the point where I can leave it.

~Chuck Close

All the best ideas come out of the process; they come out of the work itself.

~Chuck Close

From my point of view, photography never got any better than it was in 1840.

~Chuck Close

I think I was driven to paint portraits to commit images of friends and family to memory. I have face blindness, and once a face is flattened out, I can remember it better.

~Chuck Close

Paintings can make you cry and it's just ****colored dirt****.

~Chuck Close

It's like a magic well. You think you know everything about [a] photograph, you think you've gotten everything out of it, and all of a sudden I see things in it I'd never seen before.

~Chuck Close

I think the problem with the arts in America is how unimportant it seems to be in our educational system.

~Chuck Close

Far more interesting than problem solving is problem creation.

~Chuck Close

Painting is the frozen evidence of a performance.

~Chuck Close

I only have so much time and energy and money, and I'm going to put it into my work.

~Chuck Close

A photograph doesn't gain weight or lose weight, or change from being happy to being sad. It's frozen. You can use it, then recycle it.

~Chuck Close

Sometimes I really want to paint somebody and I don't get a photograph that I want to work from.

~Chuck Close

I absolutely hate technology, and I'm computer illiterate, and I never use any labor-saving devices although I'm not convinced that a computer is a labor-saving device.

~Chuck Close

Like any corporation, I have the benefit of the brainpower of everyone who is working for me. It all ends up being my work, the corporate me, but everyone extends ideas and comes up with suggestions.

~Chuck Close

The reason I don't like realist, photorealist, neorealist, or whatever, is that I am as interested in the artificial as I am in the real.

~Chuck Close

I knew from the age of five what I wanted to do. The one thing I could do was draw. I couldn't draw that much better than some of the other kids, but I cared more and I wanted it badly.

~Chuck Close

There's something Zen-like about the way I work - it's like raking gravel in a Zen Buddhist garden.

~Chuck Close

Most people are good at too many things. And when you say someone is focused, more often than not what you actually mean is they're very narrow.

~Chuck Close

Any artist who goes to Las Vegas is an idiot as far as I am concerned. Whoever goes to Las Vegas can stay in Las Vegas.

~Chuck Close

I love making art... It's largely how I see myself. I'm an artist; therefore I have to make art.

~Chuck Close

There are things about signing on to a process over the long term that protect you from the buffeting winds of change.

~Chuck Close

I never said the camera was truth. It is, however, a more accurate and more objective way of seeing.

~Chuck Close

Of all the artists who emerged in the '80s, I think perhaps Cindy Sherman is the most important.

~Chuck Close

I think women realise that I love women, and very often women seem to love me.

~Chuck Close

I'm poor white trash from the state of Washington.

~Chuck Close

I'm very interested in how we read things, especially the link between seeing two-dimensional and three-dimensional images, because of how I read.

~Chuck Close

I don't believe in inspiration. Inspiration is for amateurs. Some of the time you know you're cooking, and the rest of the time, you just do it.

~Chuck Close

I love sculpture, and minimal sculpture is really my favorite stuff, but I wasn't very good at it, and I don't think in a three-dimensional way.

~Chuck Close

I think most paintings are a record of the decisions that the artist made. I just perhaps make them a little clearer than some people have.

~Chuck Close

I have a great deal of difficulty recognizing faces, especially if I haven't - if I've just met somebody, it's hopeless.

~Chuck Close

I learned you could suffer a terrible tragedy and still be happy again.

~Chuck Close

Any innovation that is evident in my paintings is a direct result of something that happened in the course of making a print.

~Chuck Close

I am going for a level of perfection that is only mine... Most of the pleasure is in getting the last little piece perfect.

~Chuck Close

Every idea occurs while you are working. If you are sitting around waiting for inspiration, you could sit there forever.

~Chuck Close

I always thought problem solving was greatly overrated - and that the most important thing was problem creation.

~Chuck Close

Painting is a lie. It's the most magic of all media, the most transcendent. It makes space where there is no space.

~Chuck Close

If it looks like art, chances are it's somebody else's art.

~Chuck Close

At the same time that I'm finding the color world I want, I'm also trying to make the imagery, you know, by the nature of the strokes themselves.

~Chuck Close

Every child should have a chance to feel special.

~Chuck Close

I've always thought that problem-solving is highly overrated and that problem creation is far more interesting.

~Chuck Close

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