

# Claudia Rankine

## Quotes

*Thinking, People, Body, Black, Past, Feelings, Men, Moving, Believe, Two, Ideas, Optimistic, Understanding, Want, Role Models, Waiting, Book, Mistake, Way, Mean*

Because white men can't police their imaginations, black men are dying.

~Claudia Rankine

I want to believe that in any relational moment a person understands that the other person in front of them is just another human being.

~Claudia Rankine

You can't put the past behind you. It's buried in you; it's turned your flesh into its own cupboard. Not everything remembered is useful but it all comes from the world to be stored in you.

~Claudia Rankine

The past is a life sentence, a blunt instrument aimed at tomorrow.

~Claudia Rankine

Define loneliness? Yes. It's what we can't do for each other.

~Claudia Rankine

Poetry has no investment in anything besides openness. It's not arguing a point. It's creating an environment.

~Claudia Rankine

Sometimes the art pieces I gravitate toward speak to me in terms of narrative, at other times they speak to me in terms of mood.

~Claudia Rankine

The worst injury is feeling you don't belong so much / to you.

~Claudia Rankine

If you admit to being racist, it says you acknowledge that you are being driven by projections and stereotypes that were formed in the creation of our country. Racism is deeply rooted in America.

~Claudia Rankine

Where is the safest place when that place / must be someplace other than in the body?

~Claudia Rankine

I am invested in keeping present the forgotten bodies.

~Claudia Rankine

I also found it funny to think about blackness as the second person. That was just sort of funny. Not the first person, but the second person, the other person.

~Claudia Rankine

I'm not investigating race as much as I'm investigating intimacy.

~Claudia Rankine

The patience is in the living. Time opens out to you.

~Claudia Rankine

I don't really agree with the role model thing. People are always saying that athletes shouldn't do X or Y because they are role models.

~Claudia Rankine

Poetry is probably the last gift economy. Part of the negotiation is to understand that you're going to do something you really want to do, so you're going to take whatever life comes with that.

~Claudia Rankine

People expect black women to be angry, irrationally so, without reason. They think we are animals and we go around like the Wild Things.

~Claudia Rankine

If you make a mistake, then you should own that mistake.

~Claudia Rankine

I think music, like writing, can be a mirror. Can turn back onto the listener, the viewer, the reader, an experience that they know but they don't know.

~Claudia Rankine

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