

David Hockney

Quotes

Thinking, Art, People, Photography, Drawing, Mean, Artist, Cameras, Painting, World, Moving, Believe, Space, Want, Years, Looks, Perspective, Interesting, Paint, Way

I made a photograph of a garden in Kyoto, the Zen garden, which is a rectangle. But a photograph taken from any one point will not show, well it shows a rectangle, but not with ninety degree angles.

~David Hockney

What an artist is trying to do for people is bring them closer to something, because of course art is about sharing. You wouldn't be an artist unless you wanted to share an experience, a thought.

~David Hockney

If you see the world as beautiful, thrilling and mysterious, as I think I do, then you feel quite alive.

~David Hockney

Listening is a positive act: you have to put yourself out to do it.

~David Hockney

Faces are the most interesting things we see; other people fascinate me, and the most interesting aspect of other people - the point where we go inside them - is the face. It tells all.

~David Hockney

The camera can't see space. It sees surfaces. People see space, which is much more interesting.

~David Hockney

Art has to move you and design does not, unless it's a good design for a bus.

~David Hockney

In art, new ways of seeing mean new ways of feeling; you can't divorce the two, as, we are now aware, you cannot have time without space and space without time.

~David Hockney

I was aware that the teaching of drawing was being stopped almost 30 years ago. And I always said, 'The teaching of drawing is the teaching of looking.' A lot of people don't look very hard.

~David Hockney

The urge to draw must be quite deep within us, because children love to do it.

~David Hockney

California is always in my mind.

~David Hockney

I think photography has made us see the landscape in a very dull way - that's one of its effects. It's not spatial.

~David Hockney

I think I'm greedy, but I'm not greedy for money - I think that can be a burden - I'm greedy for an exciting life.

~David Hockney

I believe that the very process of looking can make a thing beautiful.

~David Hockney

The moment you cheat for the sake of beauty, you know you're an artist.

~David Hockney

Drawing makes you see things clearer, and clearer and clearer still, until your eyes ache.

~David Hockney

When you are older, you realise that everything else is just nothing compared to painting and drawing.

~David Hockney

Just because I'm cheeky, doesn't mean I'm not serious

~David Hockney

The thing with high-tech is that you always end up using scissors.

~David Hockney

Style is something you can use, and you can be like a magpie, just taking what you want.

~David Hockney

In the end nobody knows how it's done – how art is made. It can't be explained. Optical devices are just tools. Understanding a tool doesn't explain the magic of creation. Nothing can.

~David Hockney

There is nothing wrong with photography, if you don't mind the perspective of a paralysed Cyclops.

~David Hockney

Photoshop came out of painting, and now it's going back to painting.

~David Hockney

Teaching people to draw is teaching people to look

~David Hockney

The video camera dominates art. It's a bore, it makes everything look a bit the same. If you look at things with a pencil and paper in your hand, you are going to see far more.

~David Hockney

I'm interested in all kinds of pictures, however they are made, with cameras, with paint brushes, with computers, with anything.

~David Hockney

Being able to draw means being able to put things in believable space. People who don't draw very well can't do that.

~David Hockney

Laugh a lot. It clears the lungs.

~David Hockney

East Yorkshire, to the uninitiated, just looks like a lot of little hills. But it does have these marvelous valleys that were caused by glaciers, not rivers. So it is unusual.

~David Hockney

It is very good advice to believe only what an artist does, rather than what he says about his work.

~David Hockney

Until cubism, all art, all pictures, could be 'read' by anybody. If this hadn't been so, the Christian message wouldn't have been seen by peasants and its importance would have been diminished.

~David Hockney

It sometimes takes a foreigner to come and see a place and paint it. I remember someone saying they had never really noticed the palm trees here until I painted them.

~David Hockney

You must plan to be spontaneous.

~David Hockney

Most artists work all the time, they do actually, especially good artists, they work all the time, what else is there to do? I mean you do.

~David Hockney

I've always said that the only thing a photograph is good at capturing

faithfully is another flat surface.

~David Hockney

As you get older, it gets a bit harder to keep the spontaneity in you, but I work at it.

~David Hockney

And then I went round the corner and there's a Van Gogh portrait, and you just think, well, this is another level. A higher level, actually. I love the Sargent, but it's not the level of Van Gogh.

~David Hockney

Drawing takes time. A line has time in it

~David Hockney

People from the village come up and tease me: 'We hear you've started drawing on your telephone.' And I tell them, 'Well, no, actually, it's just that occasionally I speak on my sketch pad,'

~David Hockney

It takes a long time to make it simple.

~David Hockney

I've always been a looker. Loads of people say, "I never saw that" - but that's what artists do.

~David Hockney

OH, I LIKE smoking, I do. I smoke for my health, my mental health. Tobacco gives you little pauses, a rest from life. I don't suppose anyone smoking a pipe would have road rage, would they?

~David Hockney

There's a Chinese proverb that says it all: Painting is an old man's art.

~David Hockney

Future art that is based on appearances won't look like the art that's gone before. Even revivals of a period are not the same.

~David Hockney

The only people who need degrees are dentists and brain surgeons.

~David Hockney

I'm a very early riser, and I don't like to miss that beautiful early morning light.

~David Hockney

It's very British to go about to see something unusual and paint it.

~David Hockney

I do do a lot of talking, because it saves me listening.

~David Hockney

But, I would always be thinking of how pictures are constructed and colour, how to use it, I mean you're using it for constructing, makes you think about it, the place did as well.

~David Hockney

In fact, most artists want to make things a bit more difficult for themselves as they go along, to challenge themselves.

~David Hockney

How difficult it is to learn not to see like cameras, which has had such an effect on us. The camera sees everything at once. We don't.

~David Hockney

There are enough no smoking places now.

~David Hockney

But slowly I began to use cameras and then think about what it was that

was going on. It took me a long time, I mean I actually played with cameras and photography for about 20 years.

~David Hockney

All art is contemporary, if it's alive, and if it's not alive, what's the point of it?

~David Hockney

With watercolour, you can't cover up the marks. There's the story of the construction of the picture, and then the picture might tell another story as well.

~David Hockney

I feel 30. [Publo] Picasso said he always felt 30. Well, I do.

~David Hockney

No one has ever asked to see my degree certificate.

~David Hockney

Once you start painting, you could of course get lost. I mean you get out of yourself, you don't know whether you're thinking, you just act actually sometimes.

~David Hockney

If you like music you like silence actually.

~David Hockney

Nature, never, never let's you down, it's not a cliché, nature isn't a cliché, pictures might be, but you can get tired of pictures.

~David Hockney

We live in an age where the artist is forgotten. He is a researcher. I see myself that way.

~David Hockney

An artist might be attracted to hedonism, but of course an artist is not a hedonist. He's a worker, always.

~David Hockney

I was never that interested in movies. I was interested in them as a thing, but I didn't want to make movies. I always wanted to draw and paint.

~David Hockney

I think cubism has not fully been developed. It is treated like a style, pigeonholed and that's it.

~David Hockney

Drawing is rather like playing chess: your mind races ahead of the moves that you eventually make.

~David Hockney

I did come from a pretty independent-minded family.

~David Hockney

I can often tell when drawings are done from photographs, because you can tell what they miss out, what the camera misses out: usually weight and volume - there's a flatness to them.

~David Hockney

I'm always excited by the unlikely, never by ordinary things.

~David Hockney

I am constantly preoccupied with how to remove distance so that we can all come closer together, so that we can all begin to sense we are the same, we are one.

~David Hockney

Always live in the ugliest house on the street - then you don't have to

look at it.

~David Hockney

Television is becoming a collage - there are so many channels that you move through them making a collage yourself. In that sense, everyone sees something a bit different.

~David Hockney

It's all one to me: opera, painting, drawing, faxes.

~David Hockney

Of course you can still paint landscape - it's not been worn out.

~David Hockney

I worked in the NHS as a hospital orderly during my national service, and people thought it was a noble service. But over the years it's lost its humanity.

~David Hockney

Yes, I did, I mean I painted er, in a kind of abstract expressionist way, because of course that was exciting.

~David Hockney

Every good artist I know, I always think works hard, we're working all the time.

~David Hockney

I never talk when I'm drawing a person, especially if I'm making line drawings. I prefer there to be no noise at all so I can concentrate more.

~David Hockney

Enjoyment of the landscape is a thrill.

~David Hockney

I'm coming 'round to the view that there's only a personal view of the world.

~David Hockney

The history of photography needs clearing out. It needs something else now. Because photography always acknowledged there were cameras before photography.

~David Hockney

It's all right if you don't mind looking at the world from the point of view of a paralyzed Cyclopsâ€™ for a split second.

~David Hockney

Anything simple always interests me.

~David Hockney

Water colours are wet colours in water.

~David Hockney

I have got an iPad, what a joy! Van Gogh would have loved it, and he could have written his letters on it as well.

~David Hockney

I think I am seeing more clearly now than ever.

~David Hockney

There's no-one up there in Northern Norway, food's terrible, but it's very, very beautiful to look at, if you've got eyes, and enjoy looking.

~David Hockney

I think Picasso was, without doubt, the greatest portraitist of the 20th century, if not any other century.

~David Hockney

Style is something you can use, and you can be like a magpie, just taking what you want. The idea of the rigid style seemed to me then something you needn't concern yourself with, it would trap you.

~David Hockney

Shadows sometimes people don't see shadows. The Chinese of course never paint them in pictures, oriental art never deals with shadow. But I noticed these shadows and I knew it meant it was sunny.

~David Hockney

Photographs aren't accounts of scrutiny. The shutter is open for a fraction of a second.

~David Hockney

Well you can't teach the poetry, but you can teach the craft.

~David Hockney

Smoking calms me down. It's enjoyable. I don't want politicians deciding what is exciting in my life.

~David Hockney

The lens is a tyranny.

~David Hockney

Paint something every day.

~David Hockney

It's time to debate images, especially when someone's going to prison for downloading them.

~David Hockney

I never work with music. I hate background music, always did. I only like music in the foreground, meaning, deliberately listen to it, actually.

~David Hockney

The picture itself is a document. How do you mean? We're looking at a document. It gives you clues.

~David Hockney

What I didn't know was I was deeply attracted to the big space.

~David Hockney

A lot of people, given the chance, would blow up everything, and you and me.

~David Hockney

What I always longed to do was to be able to paint like I can draw, most artists would tell you that, they would all like to paint like they can draw.

~David Hockney

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