

# David Rees

## Quotes

*People, Art, Thinking, Real, Interesting, Want, Making Money, Self, Goal, Stuff,  
Ideas, Way, Reading, Hate, Mean, Would Be, Cartoon, House, Dream, Jobs*

Once you use a toothbrush to clean a pencil sharpener, you should no longer use it to clean your teeth.

~David Rees

Just because something makes you smile or laugh ... doesn't mean it's a joke.

~David Rees

The type of pop culture that is honestly very moving and powerful to me is [when artists] do their homework. They make it real.

~David Rees

I started sharpening pencils at the census and how that was a difficult time in my life because my marriage was ending and I had quit cartooning and I didn't know what to do with myself.

~David Rees

I like feeling like I'm discovering something new. That's really a special feeling and also, you don't have it that often. At least, I don't. Maybe I'm not creative enough.

~David Rees

I liked sharpening pencils and I was like, "Oh, I wonder if I could get paid to do it." And I figured it out and I did it.

~David Rees

I'm interested in the structure of art and how it works. And the content is also interesting, but I don't want to keep the same structure and just plug in new content every week.

~David Rees

I've always liked Richard Pryor. I've always responded to rhythmic profanity.

~David Rees

Talking about my personal life onstage, I've realized I'm not one of those comics who can do that. I can allude to it but I don't want to be a confessional performer.

~David Rees

I'm not a professional comedian. Nobody comes to my comedy shows. That's just a little hobby.

~David Rees

I've never been good at self-promotion. And my URL is really obscure. And for years and years, there was nothing about me on my website.

~David Rees

I had good relationships with stores. And I was like, "All right, I'll self-publish it. But I'm only going to do 1,000."

~David Rees

I hate self-publishing; it's a real drag and it takes up a lot of space.

~David Rees

I just wanted a really simple, dramatic way so that fans, people who were reading my comic, would be like, "This is something different." Just to flag it, almost.

~David Rees

Obviously, I never had to sketch anything out. To me, that was the appeal of working with clip art, working digitally. You make it and it's done.

~David Rees

I don't want to be one of these people who's like, "Man, I don't know where my ideas come from and I don't know why this works."

~David Rees

I feel like really thinking about art and really appreciating it and learning the language of it just makes you more of a connoisseur. I believe that.

~David Rees

I have a really analytical approach to art. And the whole idea that you can't analyze what makes a joke funny...I do not agree with that at all.

~David Rees

The time that I would spend revisiting my old Get Your War On strips is more profitably spent Googling myself and reading comments about how people hate my pencil-sharpening business.

~David Rees

I have very limited craftsmanship. And a lot of the stuff I make plays on that.

~David Rees

I didn't dare to dream of making money. But now of course, I've made many thousands of dollars sharpening pencils.

~David Rees

I'd always been really intimidated by prose writing.

~David Rees

I've been really surprised about a lot of the negative comments about artisanal pencil sharpening. Like, it really rubs some people the wrong way.

~David Rees

I don't think I would've ever dared dreaming of becoming a professional cartoonist. I wouldn't set myself up for that disappointment.

~David Rees

Nobody could be a professional cartoonist, because you have to do

something you don't like to do in order to be a responsible adult and pay the rent.

~David Rees

I don't even drink Coke. It tastes like robot sweat.

~David Rees

I like to do things that are new, where I feel the sense of discovery.

~David Rees

I wanted to get paid to sharpen pencils originally just because I thought it would be fun.

~David Rees

I felt really conflicted about making money off stuff that's creatively satisfying.

~David Rees

The way you make money is to do something you don't like to do. And that's how you know you're a virtuous person.

~David Rees

Everyone has pencils in their house, no matter how hip and contemporary they are.

~David Rees

It would be amazing to tell my grandchildren, like, 'Yeah, I was paid to sharpen 1,000 pencils.'

~David Rees

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