

David Shields

Quotes

Narrative, Plot, Reality, Novel, Thinking, Book, Nonfiction, Art, Prison, Want, Care, Editing, Mediums, Literature, Scrap, Events, Rooms, Rumor, Self, Real

Anything processed by memory is fiction.

~David Shields

My medium is prose, not the novel.

~David Shields

Everything I write, I believe instinctively, is to some extent collage. Meaning, ultimately, is a matter of adjacent data.

~David Shields

I don't know what's the matter with me, why I'm so adept at distance, why I feel so remote from things, why life feels like a rumor.

~David Shields

A book should either allow us to escape existence or teach us how to endure it.

~David Shields

To me, the moment you're talking about nonfiction you're talking about reality.

~David Shields

If I'm reading a book and it seems truly interesting, I tend to start reading back to front in order not to be too deeply under the sway of progress.

~David Shields

Momentum, in literary mosaic, derives not from narrative but from the subtle, progressive buildup of thematic resonances.

~David Shields

The absence of plot leaves the reader room to think about other things.

~David Shields

Resolution and conclusion are inherent in a plot-driven narrative.

~David Shields

I take literature as a really serious human activity. It's not just a playful thing. It can be hilarious and wonderful and performative, but I think it's really serious.

~David Shields

In my own little way, I feel like I'm part of a group of writers who care deeply about pushing the essay forward.

~David Shields

Our culture is obsessed with real events because we experience hardly any.

~David Shields

Story seems to say that everything happens for a reason and I want to say, No, it doesn't.

~David Shields

With relatively few exceptions, the novel sacrifices too much, for me, on the altar of plot.

~David Shields

I'm not interested in collage as the refuge of the composition-ally disabled. I'm interested in collage as (to be honest) an evolution beyond narrative.

~David Shields

The novel is dead. Long live the antinovel, built from scraps.

~David Shields

Genre is a minimum security prison.

~David Shields

The beauty of reality-based art - art underwritten by reality hunger - is that it's perfectly situated between life itself and (unattainable) "life as art".

~David Shields

You're one of 6.5 billion people now on the planet, and 99.9 percent of your genes are the same as everyone else's.

~David Shields

I'm wonderfully self-lacerating, probably to my character's detriment. I'm terribly open to critique.

~David Shields

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