

# Diane Wakoski

## Quotes

*Thinking, Literature, People, Political, Language, Events, Writing, Women,  
Together, Art, Long, Way, Interesting, Reading, Acceptance, Incomplete,  
Power, Editors, Hymns, Substance*

Poetry is the art of saying what you mean but disguising it.

~Diane Wakoski

I do not read newspapers. I do not watch television. I am not interested in current events, although I will occasionally discuss them if other people want to discuss them.

~Diane Wakoski

But I am not political in the current events sense, and I have never wanted anyone to read my poetry that way.

~Diane Wakoski

But I don't think that poetry is a good, to use a contemporary word, venue, for current events.

~Diane Wakoski

High and low culture come together in all Post Modern art, and American poetry is not excluded from this.

~Diane Wakoski

Learning to live what you're born with is the process, the involvement, the making of a life.

~Diane Wakoski

American poets celebrate their bodies, very specifically, as Whitman did.

~Diane Wakoski

American poetry, like American painting, is always personal with an emphasis on the individuality of the poet.

~Diane Wakoski

Because, in fact, women, feminists, do read my poetry, and they read it often with the power of their political interpretation. I don't care; that's

what poetry is supposed to do.

~Diane Wakoski

Distinctly American poetry is usually written in the context of one's geographic landscape, sometimes out of one's cultural myths, and often with reference to gender and race or ethnic origins.

~Diane Wakoski

I'm perfectly happy when I look out at an audience and it's all women. I always think it's kind of odd, but then, more women than men, I think, read and write poetry.

~Diane Wakoski

I have always wanted what I have now come to call the voice of personal narrative. That has always been the appealing voice in poetry. It started for me lyrically in Shakespeare's sonnets.

~Diane Wakoski

Still, language is resilient, and poetry when it is pressured simply goes underground.

~Diane Wakoski

I write in the first person because I have always wanted to make my life more interesting than it was.

~Diane Wakoski

Poems reveal secrets when they are analyzed. The poet's pleasure in finding ingenious ways to enclose her secrets should be matched by the reader's pleasure in unlocking and revealing these secrets.

~Diane Wakoski

American poetry is always about defining oneself individually, claiming one's right to be different and often to break taboos.

~Diane Wakoski

Other people have noticed more of an evolution than I have and so I'll try to tell you where I'm coming from and also relate it to what I think other people perceive.

~Diane Wakoski

I definitely wish to distinguish American poetry from British or other English language poetry.

~Diane Wakoski

Innocence is suffering and the loss of that innocence is something to fear.

~Diane Wakoski

I had been dreaming a complicated dream about helping poets revise their poems, so that each ending would open like a flower. I was not arguing, but engaged in a rousing discussion.

~Diane Wakoski

My poems are almost all written as Diane. I don't have any problems with that, and if other women choose to identify with this, I think that's terrific.

~Diane Wakoski

I am not political as a person.

~Diane Wakoski

We are authors, all of us, concerned with beginning, with making, with sources and substance.

~Diane Wakoski

Poetry is one of the essential structures of civilization - carrying myth, ritual, 'tales of the tribe' and the essence of language.

~Diane Wakoski

I think that's what poetry does. It allows people to come together and identify with a common thing that is outside of themselves, but which they identify with from the interior.

~Diane Wakoski

Poems come from incomplete knowledge.

~Diane Wakoski

PC stuff just lowers the general acceptance of good work and replaces it with bogus poetry that celebrates values that in themselves are probably quite worthy.

~Diane Wakoski

There are rituals not structures for being a poet, drinking too much, taking too many drugs, being a lady chaser, having your nervous breakdown, being irresponsible about money.

~Diane Wakoski

Sometimes the archaism of the language when it's spoken is why we are all in love with the Irish today.

~Diane Wakoski

I'm passing on a tradition of which I am part. There's a long line of poets who went before me, and I'm another one, and I'm hoping to pass that on to other younger, or newer, poets than myself.

~Diane Wakoski

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