

# Douglas Sirk

## Quotes

*Art, Ideas, Thinking, Home, Directors, Style, Character, Real, People, Promise,  
Artist, Opportunity, Wife, Dirty, Reason, Beauty, America, Men, Socialist,  
Distance*

Intellectualism came very late to America. That's why Americans are so proud of it. I found very few real intellectuals in America. But there are so many pseudo-intellectuals.

~Douglas Sirk

There arose a belief in style - and in banality. Banality encompassed politics, too, because it was a common belief that politics were not worthy of art.

~Douglas Sirk

If I can say one thing for my pictures, it is a certain craftsmanship. A thought which has gone into every angle. There is nothing there without an optical reason.

~Douglas Sirk

For a house, somewhere near Los Angeles I found an old church. Very old, no longer used. So we moved the church to the land, and I took off the steeple, and I got my hands dirty.

~Douglas Sirk

Your characters have to remain innocent of what your picture is after.

~Douglas Sirk

This is the dialectic - there is a very short distance between high art and trash, and trash that contains an element of craziness is by this very quality nearer to art.

~Douglas Sirk

So slowly in my mind formed the idea of melodrama, a form I found to perfection in American pictures. They were naive, they were that something completely different. They were completely Art-less.

~Douglas Sirk

You have to think with the heart.

~Douglas Sirk

Rock Hudson was not an educated man, but that very beautiful body of his was putty in my hands.

~Douglas Sirk

These happy endings all express the weak and sly promise that the world is not rotten and out of joint but meaningful and ultimately in excellent condition.

~Douglas Sirk

My idea at this time, which was slowly developing, was to create a comedie humaine with little people, average people - samples from every period in American life.

~Douglas Sirk

I think the great artists (..) have always thought with the heart.

~Douglas Sirk

Your camera is the best critic there is. Critics never see as much as the camera does. It is more perceptive than the human eye.

~Douglas Sirk

A director in Hollywood in my time couldn't do what he wanted to do.

~Douglas Sirk

I never regarded my pictures as very much to be proud of, except in this, the craft, the style.

~Douglas Sirk

In the 19th century, you had bourgeois art without politics - an almost frozen idea of what beauty is.

~Douglas Sirk

At the time I belonged to the socialist party, and Hitler came to power.

~Douglas Sirk

I considered that the homes that people live in exactly describe their lives.

~Douglas Sirk

If I couldn't read, I couldn't live.

~Douglas Sirk

And in movies you must be a gambler. To produce films is to gamble.

~Douglas Sirk

There is a wonderful expression: seeing through a glass darkly. Everything, even life, is inevitably removed from you. You can't reach, or touch, the real. You just see reflections

~Douglas Sirk

Yes, I was hired by Universal because they needed a comedy director. They had seen Scandal and liked it. I saw an opportunity even in those comedies to begin my project of American films.

~Douglas Sirk

Throughout my pictures I employ a lighting which is not naturalistic.

~Douglas Sirk

I worked for UFA as a set designer, you know.

~Douglas Sirk

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