

# Duane Michals

## Quotes

*Photography, Art, People, Believe, Thinking, Looks, Photograph, Way,  
Beautiful, Trying, Needs, Writing, Emotion, Magic, Moving, Eye, Reality, School,  
Addresses, Real*

Trust that little voice in your head that says 'Wouldn't it be interesting if...'; And then do it.

~Duane Michals

I believe in the imagination. What I cannot see is infinitely more important than what I can see.

~Duane Michals

I am an expressionist and by that I mean that I'm not a photographer or a writer or a painter or a tap dancer, but rather someone who expresses himself according to his needs.

~Duane Michals

Don't try to be an artist. Find the thing within you that needs to be expressed. You might find it is art.

~Duane Michals

Even in the deepest love relationship - when lovers say 'I love you' to each other - we don't really know what we're saying, because language isn't equal to the complexity of human emotions.

~Duane Michals

Photography deals exquisitely with appearances, but nothing is what it appears to be.

~Duane Michals

Art is really whispering, not shouting.

~Duane Michals

In the West, people tend to look at life as spectators, but in the East, people are the thing.

~Duane Michals

The majority of photographers focus on the obvious. They believe and

accept what their eyes tell them, and yet eyes know nothing.

~Duane Michals

My work is about my life as an event, and I find myself to be very temporal, transient.

~Duane Michals

All good work has magic in it, and addresses the mind in a subtle way.

~Duane Michals

Photography is very presumptuous. Photographers are always photographing other people's lives - something they know nothing about - and drawing great inferences into it.

~Duane Michals

I never photograph sunsets and I never photograph moonrises. I'm not interested in what things look like.

~Duane Michals

I write in order to express what the photo itself cannot say. A photograph of my father doesn't tell me what I thought of him, which for me is much more important than what the man looked like.

~Duane Michals

I never went to a photography school, which was my saving grace.

~Duane Michals

I got a lot of flak originally for writing with photographs, because the great cliché in photography is that one photograph is worth a thousand words, and photographers are usually dodo birds anyway.

~Duane Michals

The question of truth is forever in the air, and people look for it with particular fervor in art.

~Duane Michals

Usually when painters use photographs, they enlarge and copy them and simply make a large, boring painting of a large, boring photograph.

~Duane Michals

I'm very hard on the art world just being a big business.

~Duane Michals

One of the marvelous things about film is that if you expose it long enough you're going to get a picture.

~Duane Michals

I'm a terrible punster. And I love to rhyme. I just can't help myself.

~Duane Michals

Art has to address eternal issues.

~Duane Michals

To fulfil a fantasy is the quickest way to destroy it.

~Duane Michals

Most photographs, to me, are description, but they lack insight.

~Duane Michals

Taking the photograph is the easiest part for me

~Duane Michals

I already know what things look like - I don't want description. People believe in appearances, and I don't believe in appearances at all.

~Duane Michals

I often try to photograph things about a person that are not visible.

~Duane Michals

To photograph reality is to photograph nothing.

~Duane Michals

I believe in invisible; I do not believe in visible.

~Duane Michals

I don't get straight people, but I understand what they look like.

~Duane Michals

I think photographers are too polite. There is not enough anger in photography; it's pretty much trivialized.

~Duane Michals

Taking photographs and writing is my way of saying I was here, I saw this, I felt this, I heard this.

~Duane Michals

And in not learning the rules, I was free. I always say, you're either defined by the medium or you redefine the medium in terms of your needs.

~Duane Michals

I am interested in the nature of things. The nature of something is quite different from the way it looks.

~Duane Michals

You can't teach art, so ART SCHOOL is a contradiction in terms.

~Duane Michals

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