

Edgar Degas

Quotes

Art, Artist, People, Giving, Painting, Drawing, Two, Imagination, Expression, Beautiful, Doe, Should, Attitude, Difficult, Mean, Air, Simple, Beauty, Art Is, Heart

Drawing is not what you see but what you must make others see.

~Edgar Degas

A painting requires a little mystery, some vagueness, and some fantasy. When you always make your meaning perfectly plain you end up boring people.

~Edgar Degas

You must aim high, not in what you are going to do at some future date, but in what you are going to make yourself do to-day. Otherwise, working is just a waste of time.

~Edgar Degas

Conversation in real life is full of half-finished sentences and overlapping talk. Why shouldn't painting be too?

~Edgar Degas

Painting is easy when you don't know how, but very difficult when you do.

~Edgar Degas

The true traveler never arrives.

~Edgar Degas

He once said that he wished to be famous, but unknown.

~Edgar Degas

Everyone has talent at twenty-five. The difficulty is to have it at fifty.

~Edgar Degas

No art is less spontaneous than mine. What I do is the result of reflection and the study of the great masters.

~Edgar Degas

It is all very well to copy what one sees, but it is far better to draw what one now only sees in one's memory. That is a transformation in which imagination collaborates with memory.

~Edgar Degas

If I could have had my own way, I would have confined myself to black and white.

~Edgar Degas

The artist does not draw what he sees, but what he has to make others see.

~Edgar Degas

Make a drawing. Start it all over again, trace it. Start it and trace it again.

~Edgar Degas

You have to have a high conception, not of what you are doing, but of what you may do one day: without that, there's no point in working.

~Edgar Degas

Muses work all day long and then at night get together and dance.

~Edgar Degas

Only when he no longer knows what he is doing does the painter do good things.

~Edgar Degas

And even this heart of mine has something artificial. The dancers have sewn it into a bag of pink satin, pink satin slightly faded, like their dancing shoes.

~Edgar Degas

Great patience is called for on the hard path that I have entered on.

~Edgar Degas

For those who don't know what they are doing, painting is easy. For those who do know what they are doing, painting is difficult.

~Edgar Degas

If painting weren't so difficult, it wouldn't be fun.

~Edgar Degas

Daylight is too easy. What I want is difficult - the atmosphere of lamps and moonlight.

~Edgar Degas

Drawing is not the same as form, it is a way of seeing form.

~Edgar Degas

Truth is never ugly when one can find in it what one needs.

~Edgar Degas

Art' is the same word as 'artifice,' that is to say, something deceitful. It must succeed in giving the impression of nature by false means.

~Edgar Degas

The frame is the pimp of painting; it enhances it, but it must never shine at the painting's expense.

~Edgar Degas

It is people's movement that consoles us. If the leaves of a tree did not move, how sad would be the tree - and so should we.

~Edgar Degas

C'est vrai. VoilÃ ; quelqu'un qui sent comme moi. (It is true. There is someone who feels as I do).

~Edgar Degas

Taste! It doesn't exist. An artist makes beautiful things without being aware of it.

~Edgar Degas

One must do the same subject over again ten times, a hundred times. In art nothing must resemble an accident, not even movement.

~Edgar Degas

Drawing is the artist's most direct and spontaneous expression, a species of writing: it reveals, better than does painting, his true personality.

~Edgar Degas

Art is vice. One does not wed it, one rapes it.

~Edgar Degas

The Dance instills in you something that sets you apart. Something heroic and remote.

~Edgar Degas

One must have a high opinion of a work of art - not the work one is creating at the moment, but of that which one desires to achieve one day. Without this it is not worthwhile working.

~Edgar Degas

We were created to look at one another, weren't we?

~Edgar Degas

Work a great deal at evening effects, lamplight, candlelight, etc. The intriguing thing is not to show the source of the light but the effect of the lighting.

~Edgar Degas

What a horrible thing yellow is.

~Edgar Degas

A picture is an artificial work, outside nature. It calls for as much cunning as the commission of a crime.

~Edgar Degas

I feel as a horse must feel when the beautiful cup is given to the jockey.

~Edgar Degas

A picture is first of all a product of the artist's imagination, it must never be a copy.

~Edgar Degas

There is love, and there is work; and we have only one heart.

~Edgar Degas

The museums are here to teach the history of art and something more as well, for, if they stimulate in the weak a desire to imitate, they furnish the strong with the means of their emancipation.

~Edgar Degas

A man is an artist only at certain moments, by an effort of will. Objects have the same appearance for everybody.

~Edgar Degas

So that's the telephone? They ring, and you run.

~Edgar Degas

Realism is more important than the sentiment of the picture.

~Edgar Degas

Only two of my personalities are schizophrenic, but one of them is paranoid and the other one is out to get him. Only when he no longer

knows what he is doing does the painter do good things.

~Edgar Degas

Your pictures would have been finished a long time ago if I were not forced every day to do something to earn money.

~Edgar Degas

I felt so insufficiently equipped, so unprepared, so weak, and at the same time it seemed to me that my reflections on art were correct. I quarreled with all the world and with myself.

~Edgar Degas

Instantaneity is photography.

~Edgar Degas

What a delightful thing is the conversation of specialists! One understands absolutely nothing and it's charming.

~Edgar Degas

An artist must approach his work in the spirit of the criminal about to commit a crime.

~Edgar Degas

In painting you must give the idea of the true by means of the false.

~Edgar Degas

People call me the painter of dancers, but I really wish to capture movement itself.

~Edgar Degas

People call me the painter of dancing girls. It has never occurred to them that my chief interest in dancers lies in rendering movement and painting pretty clothes.

~Edgar Degas

the moods of sadness that come over anyone who takes up art... these dismal moods have very little compensation.

~Edgar Degas

A picture is a thing which requires as much knavery, as much malice, and as much vice as the perpetration of a crime. Make it untrue and add an accent of truth.

~Edgar Degas

Women can never forgive me; they hate me, they feel that I am disarming them. I show them without their coquetry.

~Edgar Degas

Even in front of nature one must compose.

~Edgar Degas

It seems to me that today if the artist wishes to be serious... he must once more sink himself in solitude.

~Edgar Degas

Art is really a battle.

~Edgar Degas

The fascinating thing, is not to show the source of light, but the effect of light.

~Edgar Degas

Drawing is your understanding of form.

~Edgar Degas

Art is vice. You don't marry it legitimately, you rape it.

~Edgar Degas

There is a kind of success that is indistinguishable from panic.

~Edgar Degas

I would like to be famous but unknown.

~Edgar Degas

One does not marry art. One ravishes it.

~Edgar Degas

The secret is to follow the advice the masters give you in their works while doing something different from them.

~Edgar Degas

The air you breathe in a picture is not necessarily the same as the air out of doors.

~Edgar Degas

The air we see in the paintings of the old masters is never the air we breathe.

~Edgar Degas

One reproduces only that which is striking; that is to say, the necessary. Thus, one's recollections and inventions are liberated from the tyranny which nature exerts.

~Edgar Degas

Make portraits of people in typical, familiar poses, being sure above all to give their faces the same kind of expression as their bodies.

~Edgar Degas

I frequently lock myself in my studio. I do not often see the people I love, and in the end I shall suffer for it... painting is one's private life.

~Edgar Degas

I don't admit that a woman draws that well!

~Edgar Degas

The frame is the reward of the artist.

~Edgar Degas

I should like to be famous and unknown.

~Edgar Degas

I'm glad I haven't found my style yet. I'd be bored to death.

~Edgar Degas

Once they witnessed one of his painting sold at auction for \$100,000. And asked how you do it, he said, 'I feel as a horse must feel when the beautiful cup is given to the jockey.'

~Edgar Degas

Nothing in art should seem accidental, not even movement

~Edgar Degas

I always urged my contemporaries to look for interest and inspiration to the development and study of drawing, but they would not listen. They thought the road to salvation lay by the way of colour.

~Edgar Degas

There are some women who should barely be spoken to; they should only be caressed.

~Edgar Degas

There is no such thing as Intelligence; one has intelligence of this or that. One must have intelligence only for what one is doing.

~Edgar Degas

These women of mine are decent, simple human beings who have no other concern than that of their physical condition... it is as though one

were watching through a keyhole.

~Edgar Degas

It requires courage to make a frontal attack on nature through the broad planes and the large lines and it is cowardly to do it by the facets and details. It is a battle.

~Edgar Degas

What is certain is that setting a piece of nature in place and drawing it are two very different things.

~Edgar Degas

A painting is above all a product of the artist's imagination, it must never be a copy. If, at a later stage, he wants to add two or three touches from nature, of course it doesn't spoil anything.

~Edgar Degas

Make people's portraits in familiar and typical attitudes.

~Edgar Degas

I'll buy a bottle for anyone who can tell me what makes a picture beautiful!

~Edgar Degas

Boredom soon overcomes me when I am contemplating nature.

~Edgar Degas

It's easy to have talent at 20 but what is difficult is to have talent at 50.

~Edgar Degas

I would have been in mortal misery all my life for fear my wife might say, "That's a pretty little thing," after I had finished a picture.

~Edgar Degas

I really have a lot of stuff in my head; if only there were insurance companies for that as there are for so many things.

~Edgar Degas

Be sure to give the same expression to a person's face that you give to his body.

~Edgar Degas

Do portraits of people in familiar and typical attitudes, above all give to their face the same choice of expression that one gives to their body.

~Edgar Degas

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- Art Quotes
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- Drawing Quotes
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- Doe Quotes
- Should Quotes
- Attitude Quotes
- Difficult Quotes
- Mean Quotes
- Air Quotes
- Simple Quotes
- Beauty Quotes
- Art Is Quotes
- Heart Quotes