

# Edith Sitwell

## Quotes

*Art, Heart, Men, Poetry, Reality, Thinking, Women, Dream, Mean, Light,  
Believe, Writing, Would Be, Winter, Fashion, Use, Secret, Spring, Artist,  
Children*

My personal hobbies are reading, listening to music, and silence.

~Edith Sitwell

I am patient with stupidity but not with those who are proud of it.

~Edith Sitwell

Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home.

~Edith Sitwell

I am an unpopular electric eel set in a pond of goldfish.

~Edith Sitwell

Vulgarity is, in reality, nothing but a modern, chic, pert descendant of the goddess Dullness.

~Edith Sitwell

Rhythm is one of the principal translators between dream and reality.

~Edith Sitwell

I am not eccentric. It's just that I am more alive than most people. I am an unpopular electric eel set in a pond of goldfish.

~Edith Sitwell

Why not be oneself? That is the whole secret of a successful appearance. If one is a greyhound, why try to look like a Pekingese?

~Edith Sitwell

If one is a greyhound, why try to look like a Pekingese?

~Edith Sitwell

The trouble with most Englishwomen is that they will dress as if they had been a mouse in a previous incarnation... they do not want to attract attention.

~Edith Sitwell

All great art contains an element of the irrational.

~Edith Sitwell

The child and the great artist -- these alone receive the sensation fresh as it was at the beginning of the world.

~Edith Sitwell

The aim of flattery is to soothe and encourage us by assuring us of the truth of an opinion we have already formed about ourselves.

~Edith Sitwell

As for the usefulness of poetry, its uses are many. It is the deification of reality.

~Edith Sitwell

I have often wished I had time to cultivate modesty... but I am too busy thinking about myself.

~Edith Sitwell

Still falls the rain - dark as the world of man, black as our loss - blind as the nineteen hundred and forty nails upon the Cross.

~Edith Sitwell

Virginia Woolf's writing is no more than glamorous knitting. I believe she must have a pattern somewhere.

~Edith Sitwell

The public will believe anything, so long as it is not founded on truth.

~Edith Sitwell

When we think of cruelty, we must try to remember the stupidity, the envy, the frustration from which it has arisen.

~Edith Sitwell

Good taste is the worst vice ever invented.

~Edith Sitwell

The great sins and fires break out of me like the terrible leaves from the bough in the violent spring. I am a walking fire, I am all leaves.

~Edith Sitwell

I wish the government would put a tax on pianos for the incompetent.

~Edith Sitwell

There is no truth. Only points of view.

~Edith Sitwell

I'm afraid I'm being an awful nuisance.

~Edith Sitwell

What an artist is for is to tell us what we see but do not know that we see.

~Edith Sitwell

A great many people now reading and writing would be better employed keeping rabbits.

~Edith Sitwell

I am one of those unhappy persons who inspire bores to the greatest flights of art.

~Edith Sitwell

The poet speaks to all men of that other life of theirs that they have smothered and forgotten.

~Edith Sitwell

[History is] that terrible mill in which sawdust rejoins sawdust.

~Edith Sitwell

I have taken this step because I want the discipline, the fire and the authority of the Church. I am hopelessly unworthy of it, but I hope to become worthy.

~Edith Sitwell

Hot water is my native element. I was in it as a baby, and I have never seemed to get out of it ever since.

~Edith Sitwell

It is hardly respectable to be good nowadays.

~Edith Sitwell

Art is magic, not logic. This craze for the logical spirit in irrational shape is part of the present harmful mania for uniformity.

~Edith Sitwell

If certain critics and poetasters had their way, 'Ordinary Piety' and its child, Dullness, would be the masters of poetry.

~Edith Sitwell

One's own surroundings means so much to one, when one is feeling miserable.

~Edith Sitwell

My poems are hymns of praise to the glory of life.

~Edith Sitwell

Picasso was a delightful, kindly, friendly, simple little man. When I met him he was extremely excited and overjoyed that his mother-in-law had just died, and he was looking forward to the funeral.

~Edith Sitwell

People are usually made Dames for virtues I do not possess.

~Edith Sitwell

Virginia Woolf, I enjoyed talking to her, but thought nothing of her writing. I considered her 'a beautiful little knitter.

~Edith Sitwell

... all ugliness passes, and beauty endures, excepting of the skin.

~Edith Sitwell

the arts are life accelerated and concentrated.

~Edith Sitwell

I'm dying, but otherwise I'm in very good health.

~Edith Sitwell

Your soul: pure glucose edged with hints  
Of tentative and half-soiled  
tints

~Edith Sitwell

All great poetry is dipped in the dyes of the heart.

~Edith Sitwell

The trouble about most Englishwomen is that they will dress as if they had been a mouse in a previous incarnation, or hope to be one in the next.

~Edith Sitwell

The poet is a brother speaking to a brother of "a moment of their other lives" - a moment that had been buried beneath the dust of the busy world.

~Edith Sitwell

I have never, in all my life, been so odious as to regard myself as

'superior' to any living being, human or animal. I just walked alone - as I have always walked alone.

~Edith Sitwell

The light would show (if it could harden) Eternities of kitchen garden

~Edith Sitwell

I'm not the man to baulk at a low smell, I'm not the man to insist on asphodel. This sounds like a He-fellow, don't you think? It sounds like that. I belch, I bawl, I drink.

~Edith Sitwell

The poet is the complete lover of mankind.

~Edith Sitwell

By the time I was eleven years old, I had been taught that nature, far from abhorring a Vacuum, positively adores it.

~Edith Sitwell

Another little drink wouldn't do us any harm.

~Edith Sitwell

Our hearts seemed safe in our breasts and sang to the Light  
The marrow in the bone We dreamed was safe. . . the blood in the veins,  
the sap in the tree Were springs of Deity.

~Edith Sitwell

The ghost of the heart of manred Cain  
And the more murderous brain  
Of Man, still redder Nero that conceived the death  
Of his mother Earth,  
and tore Her womb, to know the place where he was conceived.

~Edith Sitwell

it is as unseeing to ask what is the use of poetry as it would be to ask what is the use of religion.

~Edith Sitwell

The living blind and seeing Dead together lie  
As if in love . . . There was  
no more hating then, And no more love;  
Gone is the heart of Man.

~Edith Sitwell

I may say that I think greed about poetry is the only permissible greed -  
it is, indeed, unavoidable.

~Edith Sitwell

I wouldn't dream of following a fashion... how could one be a different  
person every three months?

~Edith Sitwell

It is part of the poet's work to show each man what he sees but does  
not know he sees.

~Edith Sitwell



### **Related Links:**

- Art Quotes
- Heart Quotes
- Men Quotes
- Poetry Quotes
- Reality Quotes
- Thinking Quotes
- Women Quotes
- Dream Quotes
- Mean Quotes
- Light Quotes
- Believe Quotes
- Writing Quotes
- Would Be Quotes
- Winter Quotes
- Fashion Quotes
- Use Quotes
- Secret Quotes
- Spring Quotes
- Artist Quotes
- Children Quotes