

Francesco Clemente

Quotes

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I'm at the age where I don't need an acid trip to feel naked... to feel that I don't exist. Now a self-portrait is almost a reminder to me that I do exist.

~Francesco Clemente

Painting is like making love. You cannot ask, 'How do you do it?' But, hopefully, it is beautiful.

~Francesco Clemente

Fashion is the pursuit of perfection, Style is the acceptance of one's flaws.

~Francesco Clemente

My portraits are half what I see and the other half is invented or dictated by the person and the painting.

~Francesco Clemente

I never paint a portrait from a photograph, because a photograph doesn't give enough information about what the person feels.

~Francesco Clemente

I repeatedly refuse to make any practical decisions. I get a feeling of nausea about practicality.

~Francesco Clemente

When you sit for an hour and a half in front of somebody, he or she shows about twenty faces. And so it's this crazy chase of, Which face? Which one is the one?

~Francesco Clemente

There's poetry in the world. Poetry doesn't belong just to the poets. You know, you can look at the most premeditated, cold blooded movie and find poetry in it.

~Francesco Clemente

It is very scary to think mechanically about someone you know. That means that the second time you meet a person is useless. Which I tend to believe anyway.

~Francesco Clemente

When I look at a drawing of a person, I look at that person as living.

~Francesco Clemente

In India and in New York the economy is naked. People are starving physically in India, and emotionally in New York.

~Francesco Clemente

To me the poets are closer than I am to the idea of voice, to a sort of primeval song that we all participate in.

~Francesco Clemente

And dilettantism is a humorous way to survive. Everybody understands you for it and everybody hates you for it. And not everybody chooses to be a dilettante. Many choose cunning and brute force.

~Francesco Clemente

That moment when the person actually dictates the way I do the portrait is when the intimacy arrives.

~Francesco Clemente

I first think of intelligence. You need it for surviving in Italy because Italy is so pompous.

~Francesco Clemente

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