

# Frank Stella

## Quotes

*Art, Artist, Painting, Real, Want, Thinking, Mean, People, World, Abstract  
Painting, Forget, Illustration, Ideas, Space, Way, Curves, Too Much,  
Complicated, Confusion, Imitating Others*

I don't like to say I have given my life to art. I prefer to say art has given me my life.

~Frank Stella

What you see is what you see.

~Frank Stella

I was worried in the '80s that the best abstract painting had become obsessed with materiality, and painterly gestures and materiality were up against the wall.

~Frank Stella

You see what you know!

~Frank Stella

But, after all, the aim of art is to create space - space that is not compromised by decoration or illustration, space within which the subjects of painting can live.

~Frank Stella

All I want anyone to get out of my paintings, and all I ever get out of them, is the fact that you can see the whole idea without any confusionâ€”What you see is what you see.

~Frank Stella

Making art is complicated because the categories are always changing. You just have to make your own art, and whatever categories it falls into will come later.

~Frank Stella

A sculpture is just a painting cut out and stood up somewhere.

~Frank Stella

Architecture can't fully represent the chaos and turmoil that are part of

the human personality, but you need to put some of that turmoil into the architecture, or it isn't real.

~Frank Stella

The aim of art is to create space.

~Frank Stella

I'm more of a house painter. That's the way I work.

~Frank Stella

There's a lot of difference between being well known and being notorious and the black paintings didn't make me well known - they made me notorious.

~Frank Stella

I want to make exalted art. A successful image has pictorial lift. I am looking for whatever is up there

~Frank Stella

I get cranky real easily. So the honor of it and the wonder of it all and everything has a hard time overcoming the petty annoyances; I mean, that's simply the reality of being alive, I guess.

~Frank Stella

Any artist can't get away from the way the world works, which is that it wants to know what you did, and you're only interested in what you're doing right now.

~Frank Stella

One learns about painting by looking at and imitating other painters.

~Frank Stella

You couldn't forget Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse and Joan Miro either. And it had to be, you know, at least as good or better.

~Frank Stella

Once I really started to understand Frank Stella's work and follow it, there's a certain type of invention and playfulness and extreme rigor with which he kept going forward.

~Frank Stella

I had to find a way to paint abstractly, which is what I wanted to do. I couldn't forget Wassily Kandinsky and Kazimir Malevich and Piet Mondrian, I mean that was the basis.

~Frank Stella

I don't like a lot of the stuff that goes on in the art world, but it's hard to be old and like what goes on around you.

~Frank Stella

Scarlatti [Kirkpatrick] started writing sonatas when he was 66 and the idea that he ran off 500 or so after he was 66 was just too much for me to resist. It's just great.

~Frank Stella

Abstract paintings must be as real as those created by the 16th century Italians.

~Frank Stella

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