

Gao Xingjian Quotes

*Writing, Literature, Men, Want, Self, Art, Book, Reality, Trying, Eye, Views,
Hero, People, Instant, Language, Dream, Lying, Thinking, Subservient,
Perception*

Dreams are more real than reality itself, they're closer to the self.

~Gao Xingjian

Writing eases my suffering . . . writing is my way of reaffirming my own existence.

~Gao Xingjian

Walk where your heart leads you, there are no restrictions and no burdens.

~Gao Xingjian

If you want to do anything, do it now, without compromise or concession, because you have only one life.

~Gao Xingjian

Observing humans and observing oneself yields a clear-minded starting point for literature.

~Gao Xingjian

Loneliness is a prerequisite for freedom. Freedom depends on the ability to reflect, and reflection can only begin when one is alone.

~Gao Xingjian

It's in literature that true life can be found. It's under the mask of fiction that you can tell the truth.

~Gao Xingjian

Love is so holy, so confusing. It makes a man anxious, tormented. Love, how can I define it?

~Gao Xingjian

I don't want to be a strong hero who can save society. I just want to save myself.

~Gao Xingjian

For me, writing [was] a question of survival...I could not trust anyone, even my family. The atmosphere was so poisoned. People even in your own family could turn you in.

~Gao Xingjian

A good work can be communicated across languages ... [provided one does not] fall into the trap of narrow-minded nationalistic or chauvinistic thinking.

~Gao Xingjian

I decided that I did not want to follow any of these ideologies or trends, because these also exerted a kind of pressure, and obstructed absolute creative freedom.

~Gao Xingjian

You contemplate and you wander without any worries, between heaven and earth, in your own private world, and in this way you acquire supreme freedom.

~Gao Xingjian

Life is probably a tangle of love and hate permanently knotted together.

~Gao Xingjian

Maybe there isn't a God after all, maybe there's only a universe rotating by itself like a millstone.

~Gao Xingjian

Once the buttons are undone, you know how it'll all end. It's all in the game, there are no miracles.

~Gao Xingjian

A good man never fights with a woman.

~Gao Xingjian

I hadn't originally intended to do any reading, what if I did read one book more or one book less, whether I read or not wouldn't make a difference, I would still be waiting to get cremated.

~Gao Xingjian

In the snow outside my window I see a small green frog, one eye blinking and the other wide open, unmoving, looking at me. I know this is God.

~Gao Xingjian

What is essential is whether it is perceived and not whether it exists. To exist and yet not to be perceived is the same as not exist.

~Gao Xingjian

Life is fragile, yet to obstinately struggle is natural.

~Gao Xingjian

You're safe only when you can't see anybody.

~Gao Xingjian

Everyone has to have either this or that problem, if he can't find any problem, he loses all reason for living.

~Gao Xingjian

Truth refuses to be subservient to either politics or the market.

~Gao Xingjian

I believe in science but I also believe in fate.

~Gao Xingjian

Everybody can write poetry, just like everybody knows how to make love.

~Gao Xingjian

With the beginning of life, comes the thirst for truth, whereas the ability to lie is gradually acquired in the process of trying to stay alive.

~Gao Xingjian

Men always look differently at women, even if it's not your intention it is wrongly interpreted as such.

~Gao Xingjian

Soul Mountain, the story of one man's quest for inner peace and freedom.

~Gao Xingjian

The sand murmurs that it wants to swallow everything.

~Gao Xingjian

Only a lunatic would think that art is superior to nature.

~Gao Xingjian

When you're telling a story, you've got to give details.

~Gao Xingjian

Body odour (known also as scent of the immortals) is a disgusting condition with an awful, nauseating smell.

~Gao Xingjian

I want to write a novel so profound that it would suffocate a fly.

~Gao Xingjian

The human need for language is not simply for the transmission of meaning, it is at the same time listening to and affirming a person's existence.

~Gao Xingjian

There are numerous layers to truth, and the simple and superficial

statement of facts cannot satisfy the writer.

~Gao Xingjian

Reality is myself, reality is only the perception of this instant and it can't be related to another person.

~Gao Xingjian

They say it only takes an instant to have a dream; a dream can be compressed into hardtack.

~Gao Xingjian

Indeed, loft aspirations produce ideas.

~Gao Xingjian

Realty exists only through experience, and it must be personal experience.

~Gao Xingjian

As a male writer, women are always what men pursue, and their world is always a mystery. So I always tried to present as many views as possible on women's worlds.

~Gao Xingjian

Literature is subservient to nothing but truth.

~Gao Xingjian

When God talks to humans he doesn't want humans to hear his voice.

~Gao Xingjian

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