

Hans Hofmann

Quotes

*Art, Expression, Color, Light, Mean, Spiritual, Reality, Ideas, Spirit, World,
Profound, Able, Giving, Artist, Self, Painting, Energy, Space, Function, Emotion*

In nature, light creates the color. In the picture, color creates the light.

~Hans Hofmann

The ability to simplify means to eliminate the unnecessary so that the necessary may speak.

~Hans Hofmann

Art is to me the glorification of the human spirit, and as such it is the cultural documentation of the time in which it is produced.

~Hans Hofmann

Our entire being is nourished by color.

~Hans Hofmann

It is not the form that dictates the color, but the color that brings out the form.

~Hans Hofmann

A work of art is a world in itself reflecting senses and emotions of the artist's world.

~Hans Hofmann

Colors must fit together as pieces in a puzzle or cogs in a wheel.

~Hans Hofmann

Painters must speak through paint, not through words.

~Hans Hofmann

Art is the expression of the artist's overflowing soul.

~Hans Hofmann

Art is something absolute, something positive, which gives power just as food gives power. While creative science is a mental food, art is the satisfaction of the soul.

~Hans Hofmann

My aim in painting is to create pulsating, luminous, and open surfaces that emanate a mystic light, in accordance with my deepest insight into the experience of life and nature.

~Hans Hofmann

Through a painting, we can see the whole world.

~Hans Hofmann

To sense the invisible and to be able to create it, that is art.

~Hans Hofmann

A work of art is finished, from the point of view of the artist, when feeling and perception have resulted in a spiritual synthesis.

~Hans Hofmann

The whole world, as we experience it visually, comes to us through the mystic realm of color.

~Hans Hofmann

Being inexhaustible, life and nature are a constant stimulus for a creative mind.

~Hans Hofmann

Every art expression is rooted fundamentally in the personality and temperament of the artist.

~Hans Hofmann

And so artistic creation is the metamorphosis of the external physical aspects of a thing into a self-sustaining spiritual reality .

~Hans Hofmann

What goes on in abstract art is the proclaiming of aesthetic principles...

It is in our own time that we have become aware of pure aesthetic considerations. Art never can be imitation.

~Hans Hofmann

It makes no difference whether a work is naturalistic or abstract; every visual expression follows the same fundamental laws

~Hans Hofmann

The product of movement and counter-movement is tension. When tension working strength is expressed, it endows the work of art with the living effect of coordinated, though opposing, forces.

~Hans Hofmann

I can't understand how anyone is able to paint without optimism. Despite the general pessimistic attitude in the world today, I am nothing but an optimist.

~Hans Hofmann

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~Hans Hofmann

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An idea can only be materialized with the help of a medium of expression, the inherent qualities of which must be surely sensed and understood in order to become the carrier of an idea

~Hans Hofmann

You must break all the rules of painting, but you must also convince me you've had a reason to do so.

~Hans Hofmann

Art cannot result from sophisticated, frivolous, or superficial effects.

~Hans Hofmann

When the impulses which stir us to profound emotion are integrated with the medium of expression, every interview of the soul may become art. This is contingent upon mastery of the medium.

~Hans Hofmann

Art and science create a balance to material life and enlarge the world of living experience. Art leads to a more profound concept of life, because art itself is a profound expression of feeling.

~Hans Hofmann

There is in reality no such thing as modern art. Art is carried on up and down in immense cycles through centuries and civilizations.

~Hans Hofmann

To experience visually, and to transform our visual experience into plastic terms, requires the faculty of empathy.

~Hans Hofmann

People say 'Hofmann has different styles'. I have not. I have different moods; I am not two days the same man.

~Hans Hofmann

Since light is best expressed through differences in color quality, color should not be handled as a tonal gradation, to produce the effect of light.

~Hans Hofmann

As a teacher I approach my students purely with the human desire to free them from all scholarly inhibitions, and I tell them, "Painters must speak through paint not through words."

~Hans Hofmann

To worship the product and ignore its development leads to dilettantism and reaction.

~Hans Hofmann

It isn't necessary to make things large to make them monumental; a head by Giacometti one inch high would be able to vitalize this whole space.

~Hans Hofmann

Genius is gifted with a vitality which is expended in the enrichment of life through the discovery of new worlds of feeling.

~Hans Hofmann

A thought functions only as a fragmentary part in the formulation of an idea.

~Hans Hofmann

We are connected with our own age if we recognize ourselves in relation to outside events; and we have grasped its spirit when we influence the future.

~Hans Hofmann

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