

Harold Rosenberg

Quotes

*Art, Artist, Self, Past, Struggle, Creating, Order, America, Purpose, Today,
Believe, Determination, Mean, Practice, Painting, Structure, Ongoing, Individual,
Intellectual, Engagement*

American time has stretched around the world. It has become the dominant tempo of modern history, especially of the history of Europe.

~Harold Rosenberg

The purpose of education is to keep a culture from being drowned in senseless repetitions, each of which claims to offer a new insight.

~Harold Rosenberg

Only conservatives believe that subversion is still being carried on in the arts and that society is being shaken by it.

~Harold Rosenberg

An artist is a person who has invented an artist.

~Harold Rosenberg

Form, color, composition, drawing, are auxiliaries, any one of which... can be dispensed with.

~Harold Rosenberg

The aim of every authentic artist is not to conform to the history of art, but to release himself from it in order to replace it with his own history.

~Harold Rosenberg

Kitsch is art that follows established rules in a time when all rules in art are put into question by each artist.

~Harold Rosenberg

Art has arrived at the paradox that tradition itself requires the occurrence of radical attacks on tradition.

~Harold Rosenberg

Today, each artist must undertake to invent himself, a lifelong act of creation that constitutes the essential content of the artist's work.

~Harold Rosenberg

The values to which the conservative appeals are inevitably caricatured by the individuals designated to put them into practice.

~Harold Rosenberg

America is the civilization of people engaged in transforming themselves. In the past, the stars of the performance were the pioneer and the immigrant. Today, it is youth and the Black.

~Harold Rosenberg

No dealer, curator, buyer or critic, or any existing combination of these, can be depended on to produce a reputation that is more than a momentary flurry.

~Harold Rosenberg

No degree of dullness can safeguard a work against the determination of critics to find it fascinating.

~Harold Rosenberg

A painter with prestige among painters is bound to be discovered sooner or later.

~Harold Rosenberg

A painting that is an act is inseparable from the biography of the artist.

~Harold Rosenberg

Imitation of the art of earlier centuries, as that done by Picasso and Modigliani, is carried on not to perpetuate ancient values but to demonstrate that new aesthetic orders now prevail.

~Harold Rosenberg

The current demoralization of the art world is attributable at least in part to museum interference, ideological and practical, with ongoing creation in art.

~Harold Rosenberg

The new painting has broken down every distinction between art and life.

~Harold Rosenberg

The big moment came when it was decided to paint...Just To Paint. The gesture on the canvas was a gesture of liberation, from Value- political, aesthetic, moral.

~Harold Rosenberg

In reality, however, an artist is a product of art

~Harold Rosenberg

Abandoned by philosophy, politics, and sociology, historical determinism continues to hold out in formalist art criticism.

~Harold Rosenberg

What better way to prove that you understand a subject than to make money out of it?

~Harold Rosenberg

In the United States, revolts tends to be directed against specific situations, rarely against the social structure as a whole.

~Harold Rosenberg

The artist is obliged to invent the self who will paint his pictures.

~Harold Rosenberg

Both art and the artist lack identity and define themselves only through their encounter with each other.

~Harold Rosenberg

Only through apprehending, by means of present-day creations, how art is created, can the creations of other periods be genuinely appreciated.

~Harold Rosenberg

Avant-gardism is an addiction that can be appeased only by a revolution in permanence.

~Harold Rosenberg

Whoever undertakes to create soon finds himself engaged in creating himself.

~Harold Rosenberg

Greatness in art is always a by-product.

~Harold Rosenberg

The struggle to make an absolute statement in an individually conceived vocabulary accounts for the profound tensions inherent in the best modern work.

~Harold Rosenberg

Loiter in the neighborhood of a problem. After a while a solution strolls by.

~Harold Rosenberg

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