

Helen Vendler

Quotes

*Criticism, Artist, Art, Poet, Voice, Primitive, Discovery, Precision, Names, Asks,
Way, Self, People, Firsts, Disappear, Exception, Identity, Transformation, Glory,
Needs*

You don't read or overhear the voice in the poem, you are the voice in the poem.

~Helen Vendler

The non-artists among us are always terribly busy, but finally disappear without a trace.

~Helen Vendler

Each poem leads you to the questions it makes sense to ask it.

~Helen Vendler

One could say that artists are people who think naturally in highly patterned ways.

~Helen Vendler

Soul or Intelligence destined to possess the sense of Identity.

~Helen Vendler

The art of utterance persuades initially by its music and its rhythm, before semiotic or personal characteristics come into play.

~Helen Vendler

All good poets of the past, almost without exception, were at least bilingual if not trilingual.

~Helen Vendler

I do not give the honorific name of 'poetry' to the primitive and the unaccomplished.

~Helen Vendler

A poem needs imaginative rhythms as well as imaginative transformation of content.

~Helen Vendler

When I first heard Wallace Stevens voice, it was by chance: a friend wanted to listen to the recording he had made for the Harvard Vocarium Series.

~Helen Vendler

If you like the precision and concision of poetry, a page of prose is unsatisfying in a certain way. And poetry is so direct.

~Helen Vendler

I liked teaching Henry James. When you look down at a Henry James novel from a helicopter height, you find an intricate spider web that all clings together.

~Helen Vendler

There are not many poets whose fame rests on a single work.

~Helen Vendler

Twentieth-century American poetry has been one of the glories of modern literature.

~Helen Vendler

I like art history and art criticism. Leo Steinberg has always been my favorite. Hes very original, very accurate and acute.

~Helen Vendler

I was unnerved to learn in my twenties that the poems of Emily Dickinson that I had memorized as a girl were not the poems as she had written them.

~Helen Vendler

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