

Ishmael Reed

Quotes

Book, Writing, Men, Black, Thinking, Country, New York, Years, Art, White, People, Education, United States, Light, Race, Character, Mean, California, Media, Night

I finally had to go to the American Civil Liberties Union here in northern California to get my reply published to what I considered to be a hatchet job done by Stanley Crouch.

~Ishmael Reed

Ethnic life in the United States has become a sort of contest like baseball in which the blacks are always the Chicago Cubs.

~Ishmael Reed

No one says a novel has to be one thing. It can be anything it wants to be, a vaudeville show, the six o'clock news, the mumblings of wild men saddled by demons.

~Ishmael Reed

The treatment of African and African American culture in our education was no different from their treatment in Tarzan movies.

~Ishmael Reed

Writing poetry is the hard manual labor of the imagination.

~Ishmael Reed

I used to be a discipline problem, which caused me embarrassment until I realized that being a discipline problem in a racist society is sometimes an honor.

~Ishmael Reed

One of the joys of reading is the ability to plug into the shared wisdom of mankind.

~Ishmael Reed

I think I have a pugnacious style. My style is not pretty. I don't use words like "amber" or "opaque."

~Ishmael Reed

I consider racism to be a medical problem. Racists need serious medical and psychiatric help, because they are killing themselves and making others suffer along with them.

~Ishmael Reed

We learn about one another's culture the same way we learn about sex: in the streets.

~Ishmael Reed

I'm sure that you could go back and make a graph showing that all the killings of black males increased in times of economic difficulty. As a matter of fact, a black man was lynched last year.

~Ishmael Reed

Multicultural is not a description of a category of American writing-it is a definition of all American writing.

~Ishmael Reed

Free enterprise is not a bad idea and has produced art.

~Ishmael Reed

Given all of the anti-Muslim propaganda that's being disseminated by The American Nazi media, you have to be careful. It can stress you out.

~Ishmael Reed

I have T.V. on all the time when I'm writing. I have music on. I'm engaged with the world.

~Ishmael Reed

Writing has made me a better man. It has put me in contact with those fleeting moments which prove the existence.

~Ishmael Reed

History is the story of warfare between secret societies.

~Ishmael Reed

A lot of great art comes from the Afro-American male experience. Black men are geniuses, and many times their desperation, their position as being pariahs, leads them to great originality.

~Ishmael Reed

David Simon goes to the Jewish Weekly and said he's made all this money, but he can't enjoy it because of criticism by people like Ishmael Reed.

~Ishmael Reed

I guess when it comes to this privileged White racist feminist movement they respect someone who treats them rough: John Wayne. Frank Sinatra. Phillip Roth.

~Ishmael Reed

I think Black intellectuals see too deeply. That's the problem. It's a cause of anxiety, because we see things differently.

~Ishmael Reed

Whites have been the most subsidized group in the history of the United States and maybe the history of the world, while Blacks were enslaved and were the assets of Whites.

~Ishmael Reed

I walked out on American Gangster: this evil piece of dreck. Defenders of this junk say that these movies give Black actors jobs. So did "Birth of a Nation."

~Ishmael Reed

I wasn't part of any sixties movement. I'm skeptical of movements. I'm part of the times that I'm in.

~Ishmael Reed

I think there are fundamentalists all over the world. I think all religions have fundamentalists who have different interpretations of scriptures that are very vague.

~Ishmael Reed

My stuff is direct. Critics have compared my writing style with boxing all the way back to 1978 when my first book of essays appeared: it was compared to Muhammad Ali's style.

~Ishmael Reed

My work holds up the mirror to hypocrisy, which puts me in a tradition of American writing that reaches back to Nathaniel Hawthorne.

~Ishmael Reed

I try to do what has never been done before.

~Ishmael Reed

What was once dormant is now a Creeping Thing

~Ishmael Reed

My novels and poems are meant to be read aloud. That's why jazz musicians have been able to adapt my stuff.

~Ishmael Reed

statistic: the us bureau of missing persons reports that in 1968 over 100,000 people disappeared leaving no solid clues nor traceonly a space in the lives of their friends.

~Ishmael Reed

Regardless of the criticisms I receive from the left, the right and the middle, I think it's important to maintain a prolific writing jab, as long as my literary legs hold up.

~Ishmael Reed

Tea Party members go to meetings on Medicare scooters.

~Ishmael Reed

Unfortunately, in the world today, we have dogmatic people entering into politics. I don't think the two mix.

~Ishmael Reed

My generation of writers has been prone to premature illness and death, especially the women. When Black male writers meet it's like a session of the American Diabetic Association.

~Ishmael Reed

Americans are fickle. And what constitutes the enemy is always changing. Believe it or not, at one time Blacks were the favored model minority over Asian Americans.

~Ishmael Reed

The plays raise issues that are ignored in other forums.

~Ishmael Reed

As a writer, you explore all kinds of different emotions.

~Ishmael Reed

For generations comedians have made jokes about Scots-Irish in the South inter-breeding. "I am my own grandpa" and all that stuff; you know, because they all were marrying their first cousins.

~Ishmael Reed

I'm not against White writers writing about Blacks as long as they are as objective as say James McPherson writing about an Irish American janitor in his brilliant short story "Gold Coast."

~Ishmael Reed

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