

# Jamake Highwater Quotes

*Dance, Art, Dancing, People, Mean, Religious, Needs, Adventure, Ordinary,  
Eagles, Play, Prayer, Doors, Lying, Moving, Outsiders, Mystery, Names,  
Glasses, Civilization*

Art is a staple of mankind... So urgent, so utterly linked with the pulse of feeling that it becomes the singular sign of life when every other aspect of civilization fails.

~Jamake Highwater

The nobility danced for the sake of social grace, to exhibit their finery...peasants danced to make themselves happy, to escape the routine of their life, and to meet their future wives and husbands.

~Jamake Highwater

Art doesn't want to be familiar. It wants to astonish us. Or, in some cases, to enrage us. It wants to move us. To touch us. Not accommodate us, make us comfortable.

~Jamake Highwater

Among the language of the American Indians, there is no word for 'art'... For Indians, everything is art... therefore needs no name.

~Jamake Highwater

We've reached a point where we are not a very empathetic people, and art without empathy is art without an audience. My basic viewpoint is that without art we're alone.

~Jamake Highwater

Dance has been transformed from an involuntary motor discharge, a ceremonial rite, into a work of art, conscious of, intended for, observation.

~Jamake Highwater

For Indians, images are a means of celebrating mystery and not a manner of explaining it

~Jamake Highwater

What dance achieves, what play and sex achieve are the same thing

that poetry achieves. They transform the ordinary into the extraordinary.

~Jamake Highwater

The story of dance in the Western world is as much an alternative vision of the events of history as is the folk history told for generations by primal people.

~Jamake Highwater

At the root of all the varied manifestations of dancing, lies the common impulse to resort to movement to externalize emotional states which we cannot externalize by rational means.

~Jamake Highwater

In the New Hebrides, any dancer making a mistake was assaulted, wounded, and possibly killed by bowmen posted to keep careful watch for inaccuracies in rituals.

~Jamake Highwater

Some of the most popular discos in America and Europe were started as gay establishments, which began to open their doors to anyone who wanted to dance.

~Jamake Highwater

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