

James Elkins

Quotes

*Artist, Art, Color, Dark, Oil, Want, Memories, Looks, Sunset, Important,
Thinking, Seeing, Sky, Morning, Feet, Play, Simple, Gestures, Metamorphosis,
Discovery*

Painting is an unspoken and largely unrecognized dialogue, where paint speaks silently in masses and colors and the artist responds in moods.

~James Elkins

To an artist, a picture is both a sum of ideas and a blurry memory of 'pushing paint,' breathing fumes, dripping oils and wiping brushes, smearing and diluting and mixing.

~James Elkins

The opposite of a glance... is a glimpse: because in a glance, we see only for a second, and in a glimpse, the object shows itself only for a second.

~James Elkins

Seeing is metamorphosis, not mechanism.

~James Elkins

Seeing alters the thing that is seen and transforms the seer

~James Elkins

To put it as simply as possible - and this is a simple answer, not a total answer - I know when a painting's finished when I understand why I wanted to do it in the first place.

~James Elkins

Substances are like mirrors that let us see things about ourselves that we cannot quite understand.

~James Elkins

As the decades go by, a painter's life becomes a life lived with oil paint, a story told in the thicknesses of oil. Any history of painting that does not take that obsession seriously is incomplete.

~James Elkins

Painters love paint itself: so much that they spend years trying to get paint to behave the way they want it to.

~James Elkins

The range in brightness from the purple glow [of the sunset] to the dark sky above is too great for most films, and naturally it is beyond the range of printed pictures.

~James Elkins

It is as if only irrelevance can be promoted as art.

~James Elkins

The muddy moods of oil paints are the painter's muddy humors, and its brilliant transformations are the painter's unexpected discoveries.

~James Elkins

A painter knows what to do by the tug of the brush as it pulls through a mixture of oils, and by the look of coloured slurries on the palette.

~James Elkins

Every meaning is a projection of the viewer's inarticulate moods.

~James Elkins

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