

Janet Malcolm

Quotes

Art, Done, Character, Photography, Might, Scratches, Trust, Patient, Grieving, Ordinary, Description, Armed Robbery, Law, Writing, Powerful, Ideas, Mother, Unique, Interesting, Disappointment

Writing cannot be done in a state of desirelessness.

~Janet Malcolm

A lawsuit is to ordinary life what war is to peacetime. In a lawsuit, everybody on the other side is bad. A trial transcript is a discourse in malevolence.

~Janet Malcolm

This is what it is the business of the artist to do. Art is theft, art is armed robbery, art is not pleasing your mother.

~Janet Malcolm

I was always trying to take art photographs, but the most interesting pictures were the snapshots. The artsy pictures were boring, always.

~Janet Malcolm

The writer, like the murderer, needs a motive.

~Janet Malcolm

Poets and novelists and playwrights make themselves, against terrible resistances, give over what the rest of us keep safely locked within our hearts.

~Janet Malcolm

Fidelity to the subject's thought and to his characteristic way of expressing himself is the sine qua non of journalistic quotation.

~Janet Malcolm

If you scratch a great photograph, you find two things; a painting and a photograph.

~Janet Malcolm

The camera is simply not the supple and powerful instrument of description that the pen is.

~Janet Malcolm

There are good photographers who might elevate themselves to the ranks of the great simply by burning most of their work.

~Janet Malcolm

Malice remains its animating impulse.

~Janet Malcolm

[The] arresting of time is photography's unique capacity, and the decision of when to click the shutter is the photographer's chief responsibility.

~Janet Malcolm

The 'I' character in journalism is almost pure invention.

~Janet Malcolm

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