

Jasper Johns

Quotes

Art, Thinking, Ideas, Way, Painting, Mean, Different, Space, Want, Artist, Childhood, Looks, Believe, Children, Sometimes, Drawing, Courses, Use, Personality, Life

As one gets older one sees many more paths that could be taken. Artists sense within their own work that kind of swelling of possibilities, which may seem a freedom or a confusion.

~Jasper Johns

Bend color names which should be made of neon or copper tubing. Place an object on a surface - trace the object - then bend the object - leaving some part of it attached.

~Jasper Johns

To be an artist you have to give up everything, including the desire to be a good artist.

~Jasper Johns

Take an object. Do something to it. Do something else to it.

~Jasper Johns

One night I dreamed that I painted a large American flag, and the next morning I got up and I went out and bought the materials to begin it.

~Jasper Johns

When something is new to us, we treat it as an experience. We feel that our senses are awake and clear. We are alive.

~Jasper Johns

I assumed that everything would lead to complete failure, but I decided that didn't matter - that would be my life.

~Jasper Johns

One works without thinking how to work.

~Jasper Johns

It's simple, you just take something and do something to it, and then do something else to it. Keep doing this, and pretty soon you've got

something.

~Jasper Johns

Art is either a complaint or appeasement.

~Jasper Johns

I have no ideas about what the paintings imply about the world. I don't think that's a painter's business. He just paints paintings without a conscious reason.

~Jasper Johns

Early on I was very involved with the notion of the painting as an object and tended to attack that idea from different directions.

~Jasper Johns

I have meant what I have done. Or I have often meant what I have done. Or I have sometimes meant what I have done. Or I have tried to mean what I was doing.

~Jasper Johns

I tend to like things that already exist.

~Jasper Johns

Intention involves such a small fragment of our consciousness and of our mind and of our life.

~Jasper Johns

When you work you learn something about what you are doing and you develop habits and procedures out of what you're doing.

~Jasper Johns

I don't want my work to be an exposure of my feelings.

~Jasper Johns

To do a drawing for a painting most often means doing something very sketchy and schematic and then later making it polished.

~Jasper Johns

One's range [of ideas] is limited by one's interests and imagination and by one's passion.

~Jasper Johns

One likes to think that one anticipates changes in the spaces we inhabit, and our ideas about space.

~Jasper Johns

To me, self-description is a calamity.

~Jasper Johns

Everybody is of course free to interpret the work in his own way. I think seeing a picture is one thing and interpreting it is another.

~Jasper Johns

I don't know how to organise thoughts. I don't know how to have thoughts.

~Jasper Johns

The thing is, if you believe in the unconscious - and I do - there's room for all kinds of possibilities that I don't know how you prove one way or another.

~Jasper Johns

One wants one's work to be the world, but of course it's never the world. The work is in the world; it never contains the whole thing.

~Jasper Johns

Cubism is an anatomical chart of a way of seeing external objects. But I want to confuse the meaning of the act of looking.

~Jasper Johns

Most of the power of painting comes through the manipulation of space... but I don't understand that.

~Jasper Johns

Whatever I do seems artificial and false, to me.

~Jasper Johns

Generally, I am opposed to painting which is concerned with conceptions of simplicity. Everything looks busy to me.

~Jasper Johns

There was very little art in my childhood.

~Jasper Johns

Old art offers just as good a criticism of new art as new art offers of old.

~Jasper Johns

There may or may not be an idea, and the meaning may just be that the painting exists.

~Jasper Johns

Every artist feels alone and isolated, Friends are very important in terms of all sorts of definitions of oneself. They tell you what you are and what they are aside from the intellectual aspects.

~Jasper Johns

Working is very important to me. Probably because as a child I was taught that work was good. I don't believe it intellectually but I identify with that idea. So it's probably just like a habit.

~Jasper Johns

Put a lot of paint & a wooden ball or other object on a board. Push to the other end of the board. Use this in a painting. - ruler on board.

~Jasper Johns

Merce is my favorite artist in any field.

~Jasper Johns

I'm especially interested in the music of John Cage... I would like to do some experimenting with the relationship between his freeform sound and free-form art.

~Jasper Johns

I love drawings, so I've always enjoyed making drawings that exist on their own.

~Jasper Johns

I would tend to say that I do what I do as well as possible and that most people don't.

~Jasper Johns

It's almost just a difference of mood as to whether I would describe myself one way or the other. I think I share that experience with most people.

~Jasper Johns

I'm not sure what 'coming out right' means. It often means that what you do holds a kind of energy that you wouldn't just put there, that comes about through grace of some sort.

~Jasper Johns

A picture ought to be looked at the same way you look at a radiator.

~Jasper Johns

I think a painting should include more experience than simply intended

statement.

~Jasper Johns

I decided that if my work contained what I could identify as a likeness to other work, I would remove it.

~Jasper Johns

I am just trying to find a way to make pictures.

~Jasper Johns

I never wish for critics.

~Jasper Johns

I feel that works of art are an opportunity for people to construct meaning, so I don't usually tell what they mean. It conveys to people that they have to participate.

~Jasper Johns

My work is largely concerned with relations between seeing and knowing, seeing and saying, seeing and believing.

~Jasper Johns

I'm working in my mind.

~Jasper Johns

I am not strong on perfection.

~Jasper Johns

I often find that having an idea in my head prevents me from doing something else. Working is therefore a way of getting rid of an idea.

~Jasper Johns

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