

Joan Larkin

Quotes

*Writing, People, Thinking, Book, Years, Giving, Community, Roots, Sound,
Teaching, Evil, Inspiration, Want, Regret, Poet, Different, Branches, Process,
Stuff, Tree*

I think translation is an impossible job, and I admire the people who do it in a way that brings poetry to us that we wouldn't have access to.

~Joan Larkin

Rhythms and sounds are often the first thing I hear and want in a poem, so I can't imagine trying to translate something without at least being able to hear what it sounds like.

~Joan Larkin

It takes courage to get clear about what your vision of the work is and to be persistent about it and pursue it, whatever you're saying. I'm still in a long learning process.

~Joan Larkin

Whether the poet is living or dead, they're part of our imaginative community.

~Joan Larkin

People need what they think of as a poem to be read at their bar mitzvah, their wedding, a funeral, whatever. And people are looking for hope and inspiration. I understand that.

~Joan Larkin

Teaching has given me a community that cares about poetry, and I'm grateful for that.

~Joan Larkin

Keep growing. Stay awake. Beware of gurus. Keep a low overhead.

~Joan Larkin

I'm much more capable of cutting back than of expanding. I've gotten very surgical about poems.

~Joan Larkin

I'm trying to stay open to the idea that the Internet is not the evil foe of publishing but the handmaiden that will turn out to be a blessing for poets and writers.

~Joan Larkin

There are some books in which every poem is a facet of the same thing. So the book is like a piece of music. And there are books of poems that I love so much that I carry them around with me.

~Joan Larkin

My books have come many years apart and each one seems to reflect a period of experience. Ending the book is like putting a period on a certain movement. Interior and external - both.

~Joan Larkin

I think we're always most interested in the things we're doing right now.

~Joan Larkin

I love stories, but writing fiction is another craft and I don't feel as if I have it.

~Joan Larkin

I worked in an art gallery for a few years, doing administrative assistance stuff, and it exposed me to what the whole world of art dealers and the art market was about.

~Joan Larkin

I love that people want to know about poetry. It's one of the ways of keeping alive.

~Joan Larkin

From the beginning. I was a poem-writing child. I wrote little novels in my composition book when I was eight, nine years old.

~Joan Larkin

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