

# John Constable

## Quotes

*Art, Light, Mind, Thinking, World, Sky, Looks, Trying, Corn, Imagination, Ambition, Artist, Grateful, Water, Eye, Fields, Summer, Names, Escaping, Horse*

I never saw an ugly thing in my life: for let the form of an object be what it may - light, shade, and perspective will always make it beautiful.

~John Constable

Light - dews - breezes - bloom - and freshness; not one of which... has yet been perfected on the canvas of any painter in the world.

~John Constable

It will be difficult to name a class of landscape in which the sky is not the key note, the standard of scale, and the chief organ of sentiment.

~John Constable

It is the soul that sees; the outward eyes Present the object, but the Mind descries. We see nothing till we truly understand it.

~John Constable

The sound of water escaping from mill-dams, etc., willows, old rotten planks, slimy posts, and brickwork.those scenes made me a painter and I am grateful.

~John Constable

The sky is the source of light in Nature and it governs everything.

~John Constable

We see nothing till we truly understand it.

~John Constable

When I sit down to make a sketch from nature, the first thing I try to do is to forget that I have ever seen a picture.

~John Constable

An artist who is self-taught is taught by a very ignorant person indeed.

~John Constable

Turner has outdone himself; he seems to paint with tinted steam, so evanescent and so airy.

~John Constable

Speaking to a lawyer about pictures is something like talking to a butcher about humanity.

~John Constable

Connoisseurs think the art is already done.

~John Constable

A gentleman's park is my aversion. It is not beauty because it is not nature.

~John Constable

But You know Landscape is my mistress - 'tis to her that I look for fame - and all that the warmth of the imagination renders dear to Man.

~John Constable

Verse is a mechanism by which we can create interpretative illusions suggesting profundities of response and understanding which far exceed the engagement or research of the writer.

~John Constable

I never saw an ugly thing in my life.

~John Constable

We must bear in recollection that the sentiment of the picture is that of solemnity, not gaiety & nothing garish, but the contrary - yet it must be bright, clear, alive fresh, and all the front seen.

~John Constable

Painting is with me but another word for feeling.

~John Constable

I paint by all the daylight we have and that is little enough, less perhaps than you have by much... imagine to yourself how a purl must look through a burnt glass.

~John Constable

I am anxious that the world should be inclined to look to painters for information about painting.

~John Constable

I know very well what I am about and that my skies have not been neglected, though they often failed in execution - and often no doubt from over anxiety about them.

~John Constable

The climax of absurdity to which art may be carried when led away from nature by fashion, may be best seen in the works of Boucher.

~John Constable

I don't mind parting with the corn, but not with the field in which it was raised.

~John Constable

I do not consider myself at work unless I am before a six-foot canvas.

~John Constable

No man who can do any one thing well will be able to any different thing equally well.

~John Constable

There has never been a boy painter, nor can there be. The art requires a long apprenticeship, being mechanical, as well as intellectual.

~John Constable

The world is rid of Lord Byron, but the deadly slime of his touch still

remains.

~John Constable

A sketch will not serve more than one state of mind & will not serve to drink at again & again " in a sketch there is nothing but the one state of mind " that which you were in at the time.

~John Constable

It is always my endeavour however in making a picture that it should be without a companion in the world. At least such should be a painters ambition.

~John Constable

Only think that I am now writing in a room full of Claudes... almost of the summit of my earthly ambitions.

~John Constable

My art flatters nobody by imitation, it courts nobody by smoothness, nobody by pettiness without either fal-de-lal or fiddle-de-dee; how then can I hope to be popular?

~John Constable

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