

John Currin

Quotes

Art, People, Artist, Thinking, Depressing, School, Painting, Believe, Girl, Needs, Culture, Ideas, Done, Political, Mature, Important, Bring Me Down, Fascination, Clever, Theory

A lot of times maturing as an artist is just starting to do the things you like to do.

~John Currin

Your style is who you are when you're not trying to be clever or better than you actually are.

~John Currin

I find I can't get rid of my trashiness as an artist. A lot of my themes in painting, to the extent that there are intentional themes, are meant to bring that conundrum into high relief.

~John Currin

I think a big problem with art school is that it makes people feel like they have to be interested in everything that's of high quality.

~John Currin

You have to like everything that you're painting. Maybe on a narrative level it seems harsh... but I like everything in all my paintings. It's as if you need to be less intelligent at that level.

~John Currin

There is no misery in art. All art is about saying yes, and all art is about its own making.

~John Currin

Culture is for old people. When you're young you have your body, and that's all you need.

~John Currin

I think what I do is find a cliché and try to believe in it, try to get to where I don't laugh at it.

~John Currin

Instead of last man standing, it'll be last man smiling.

~John Currin

It's a huge thing when people realize across the culture that paper money is paper. And that there's no fixed value - it's all political. That all value is set by a political authority, basically.

~John Currin

That was an important development for me, just realizing that you need to follow your pleasure, at least as a painter. I think any kind of artist needs to, no matter what you're doing.

~John Currin

I suppose the good artists, the righteous artists, somehow manage to be exuberant, and the embarrassed artist has this idea that everybody has to stop being so excited, which I find so distasteful.

~John Currin

A painting of any quality is always going to have nerdy energy, an affirmation behind it. It's gonna be like a kid playing a video game.

~John Currin

Painting is like being a lawyer and attacking a corporation.

~John Currin

Just don't do things that depress you. I realized if it depresses me, then I just don't want to get close to it. If it brings me down, I just really can't get into it.

~John Currin

I think a lot of people take a scholarly approach where they feel like you're supposed to study things that depress you.

~John Currin

When I went to college, and I went to art school, I started to realize that Warhol was cool and that pop art was fun.

~John Currin

In a capitalist system, things are valued by what people will pay for them.

~John Currin

There's nothing worse than people talking about theories and humor.

~John Currin

I wonder whether there is such a thing as critical art. I suppose there are portraits of people who could destroy you.

~John Currin

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