

John French Sloan Quotes

*Drawing, Art, Color, Thinking, Artist, Light, Men, Technique, Mean, Quality,
Paint, Lines, Form, Tree, Hands, Vitality, Important, Fall, Records, Window*

Color is like music. The palette is an instrument that can be orchestrated to build form.

~John French Sloan

There is a better chance of getting an exciting painting from a laboured study with texture than from a fine drawing without it.

~John French Sloan

Consistency is the quality of a stagnant mind.

~John French Sloan

When you draw a crowd of people in a street or room or landscape, decide whether you want to say that the people dominate the place or that the place is more important than the people.

~John French Sloan

Art is the result of a creative impulse derived out of a consciousness of life.

~John French Sloan

Artists are the only people in the world who really live. The others have to hope for heaven.

~John French Sloan

Art is the response of the living to life. It is therefore the record left behind by civilization.

~John French Sloan

Drawing is the cornerstone of the graphic, plastic arts. Drawing is the coordination of line, tone, and color symbols into formations that express the artist's thought.

~John French Sloan

The purpose of subject matter is to veil technique. The great artist uses

the cloak of resemblance to hide the means.

~John French Sloan

Line is the most powerful device of drawing.

~John French Sloan

Don't be afraid to borrow. The great men, the most original, borrowed from everybody.

~John French Sloan

Originality is a quality that cannot be imitated. The technique of the language, on the other hand, is something that belongs to all who can understand it.

~John French Sloan

Be sensitive to your mistakes. Put it on the wall for a couple of weeks. It may be that you can learn more from the study of your own work than from others.

~John French Sloan

Form your own color concept of things in nature. I have no rules for fine color to give you.

~John French Sloan

In the hands of a master, light and shade is one of the great qualities of art.

~John French Sloan

Sets of lines can say something about the direction and nature of the light. They are used by great fresco painters as a sign for shade.

~John French Sloan

Don't be stingy with your paint, it isn't worth it.

~John French Sloan

The great black and white draftsman, the sculptor, and the blind man know that form and color are separate. The form itself is what the blind man knows...Color is surface skin that fits over the form.

~John French Sloan

The subject may be of first importance to the artist when he starts a picture, but it should be of least importance in the finished product. The subject is of no aesthetic significance.

~John French Sloan

Most art students are generous till it comes to squeezing their colour on the palette... Many pictures haven't become works of art simply because the artist tried to save a nickel's worth of colour.

~John French Sloan

Always think of drawing, getting the forms realized, emphasizing the design.

~John French Sloan

Draw with the brush. Carve the form. Don't be carried away by subtleties of modeling and nice pigmentation at the expense of losing the form.

~John French Sloan

Since we have to speak well of the dead, let's knock them while they're alive.

~John French Sloan

...in the habit of watching every bit of human life I can see about my windows, but I do it so that I am not observed at it.

~John French Sloan

The important thing is to keep on drawing when you start to paint. Never graduate from drawing.

~John French Sloan

Be sensitive to the qualities inherent in the medium. Paint honestly and avoid tricks.

~John French Sloan

Atmosphere in a painting is nine-tenths fear.

~John French Sloan

Many great works of art have only form, the sculpture of the thing. Color as used to signify realization by men like Titian and Rembrandt, gives greater life and tactile experience to the work.

~John French Sloan

Find your own technique.

~John French Sloan

Assimilate all you can from tradition and then say things in your own way.

~John French Sloan

The artist seeks to record his awareness of order in life.

~John French Sloan

Painting is drawing, with the additional means of color.

~John French Sloan

Draw places you have seen from memory. I used to paint things I had glimpsed through windows while riding in the elevated train.

~John French Sloan

A good drawing has immense vitality because it is explanatory. In a good drawing even its faults have become virtues.

~John French Sloan

Nature is what you see plus what you think about it.

~John French Sloan

Drawing and composition are the same thing.

~John French Sloan

Don't think of sea as color. Make it a solid that can support a boat.
Think of 'wetness' as color-texture.

~John French Sloan

To play your colors by eye is worse than playing the piano by ear.

~John French Sloan

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