

Jonas Mekas

Quotes

Home, Reality, Film, Needs, Cameras, New York, Giving, Thinking, Video, Art, Internet, Writing, Long, Moments, Confused, Way, Real, Scripts, Squares, Two

For an artist, to be normal is a disaster

~Jonas Mekas

In the very end, civilizations perish because they listen to their politicians and not to their poets.

~Jonas Mekas

My films are the celebration of reality, of life, of my friends, of actual daily life that passes and is gone tomorrow. We don't pay attention to it when it happens.

~Jonas Mekas

An adventurer can always return home; an exile cannot. So I decided that my home would be culture.

~Jonas Mekas

In Lithuania, I am known as a poet, and they don't care about my cinema. In Europe they don't know my poetry; in Europe, I am a filmmaker. But here, in the United States, I am only a maverick!

~Jonas Mekas

In a meadow full of flowers you cannot walk through and breathe those smells and see all those colors and remain angry. We have to support the beauty, the poetry of life.

~Jonas Mekas

The deeper I went into culture, the more confused I got. So I needed something more real. I said, "Okay, from now on, my country will be cinema."

~Jonas Mekas

The nature of the video camera really makes you focus on the present. Since I have always been a diarist filmmaker, not one who stages scenes with actors, it has always been about the present moment.

~Jonas Mekas

Seek the insignificant small but essential qualities, essential to life

~Jonas Mekas

I'm not an abstract artist; I leave that to others. To me, abstract art ended with Kazimir Malevich's 'Black Square.' To continue it is senseless.

~Jonas Mekas

We are the measure of all things. And the beauty of our creation, of our art is proportional to the beauty of ourselves of our souls.

~Jonas Mekas

We need less perfect but more free films.

~Jonas Mekas

You have the possibility to give light a dimension in time.

~Jonas Mekas

For me, to catch, to celebrate the reality and life and friends and everything around me the very moment it happens - that's what is, that's what I'm possessed by.

~Jonas Mekas

I make home movies-therefore I live. I live - therefore I make home movies.

~Jonas Mekas

I brought Yoko Ono to New York and gave her her first job there. I was editing a magazine called Film Culture.

~Jonas Mekas

Most of my videos consist of fragments, one or two minutes long. They

are haikus or sketches. I have thousands.

~Jonas Mekas

I began writing poetry when I was about 10. Bad poetry, but you start with bad poetry.

~Jonas Mekas

I missed my teenage years. I was never a teenager.

~Jonas Mekas

In 1962, we created the Filmmakers' Co-Op because nobody wanted to distribute our films. If we had the Internet in those days, we wouldn't have needed the Co-Op.

~Jonas Mekas

There is no other way to break the frozen cinematic conventions than through a complete derangement of the official cinematic senses.

~Jonas Mekas

Place means nothing to me. I can be at home anywhere.

~Jonas Mekas

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