

Kenneth Clark

Quotes

*Art, Men, Believe, People, Giving, Artist, Thinking, War, Order, Mean, Long,
Looks, Animal, Justice, Leonardo, May, Delight, Photography, Ideas,
Achievement*

A racist system inevitably destroys and damages human beings; it brutalizes and dehumanizes them, blacks and whites alike.

~Kenneth Clark

Children who are treated as if they are uneducable almost invariably become uneducable.

~Kenneth Clark

I believe in courtesy, the ritual by which we avoid hurting other people's feelings by satisfying our own egos.

~Kenneth Clark

Art...must do something more than give pleasure: it should relate to our own life so as to increase our energy of spirit.

~Kenneth Clark

A lot of people you think you know you don't know until you find out you don't know then it may be too late to know.

~Kenneth Clark

Almost all great painters in old age arrive at the same kind of broad, simplified style, as if they wanted to summarise the whole of their experience in a few strokes and blobs of colour.

~Kenneth Clark

Over and above the political, economic, sociological, and international implications of racial prejudices, their major significance is that they place unnecessary burdens upon human beings.

~Kenneth Clark

The eye instinctively looks for analogies and amplifies them, so that a face imagined in the pattern of a wallpaper may become more vivid than a photograph.

~Kenneth Clark

Pride, like humility, is destroyed by one's insistence that he possesses it.

~Kenneth Clark

No nude, however abstract, should fail to arouse in the spectator some vestige of erotic feeling, even if it be only the faintest shadow - and if it does not do so it is bad art and false morals.

~Kenneth Clark

The Cathedrals were built to the glory of God; New York was built to the glory of Mammon.

~Kenneth Clark

Opera, next to Gothic architecture, is one of the strangest inventions of Western man. It could not have been foreseen by any logical process.

~Kenneth Clark

One musn't overrate the culture of what used to be called "top people" before the wars. They had charming manners, but they were as ignorant as swans.

~Kenneth Clark

The nude does not simply represent the body, but relates it, by analogy, to all structures that have become part of our imaginative experience.

~Kenneth Clark

Racial prejudices are indication of a disturbed and potentially unstable society.

~Kenneth Clark

We can destroy ourselves by cynicism and disillusion, just as effectively as by bombs.

~Kenneth Clark

In time of war all countries behave equally badly, because the power of action is handed over to stupid and obstinate men.

~Kenneth Clark

All color is no color.

~Kenneth Clark

We are part of a great whole. All living things are our brothers and sisters.

~Kenneth Clark

Only the bad artists of the nineteenth century were frightened by the invention of photography; the good ones all welcomed it and used it.

~Kenneth Clark

Energy is eternal delight; and from the earliest times human beings have tried to imprison it in some durable hieroglyphic. It is perhaps the first of all the subjects of art.

~Kenneth Clark

Conventional nudes based on classical originals could bear no burden of thought or inner life without losing their formal completeness.

~Kenneth Clark

Leonardo is the Hamlet of art history whom each of us must recreate for himself.

~Kenneth Clark

I just don't think the moon is going to be an adequate substitute for the fact that we haven't addressed ourselves to clearing up the slums.

~Kenneth Clark

The great achievement of the Catholic Church lay in harmonizing, civilizing the deepest impulses of ordinary, ignorant people.

~Kenneth Clark

Ruthless, greedy, tyrannical, disreputable... they have had one principle worth all the rest, the principle of delight!

~Kenneth Clark

Sweeping, confident articles on the future seem to me, intellectually, the most disreputable of all forms of public utterance.

~Kenneth Clark

I believe in the God-given genius of certain individuals, and I value a society that makes their existence possible.

~Kenneth Clark

A visual experience is vitalizing. Whereas to write great poetry, to draw continuously on one's inner life, is not merely exhausting, it is to keep alight a consuming fire.

~Kenneth Clark

I wonder if a single thought that has helped forward the human spirit has ever been conceived or written down in an enormous room: except, perhaps, in the reading room of the British Museum.

~Kenneth Clark

You have no idea what portrait painters suffer from the vanity of their sitters.

~Kenneth Clark

Heroes do not easily tolerate the company of other heroes.

~Kenneth Clark

All great civilisations, in their early stages, are based on success in war.

~Kenneth Clark

To hurry through the rise and fall of a fine, full sentence is like defying the role of time in human life.

~Kenneth Clark

Lives devoted to Beauty seldom end well.

~Kenneth Clark

Devotion to the facts will always give the pleasures of recognition; adherence to the rules of design, the pleasures of order and certainty.

~Kenneth Clark

Those who wish, in the interest of morality, to reduce Leonardo, that inexhaustible source of creative power, to a neutral or sexless agency, have a strange idea of doing service to his reputation.

~Kenneth Clark

I believe that in spite of the recent triumphs of science, men haven't changed much in the last two thousand years; and in consequence we must still try to learn from history. History is ourselves.

~Kenneth Clark

Few people can look at a painting longer than it takes to peel an orange and eat it.

~Kenneth Clark

The great artist takes what he needs.

~Kenneth Clark

It is often said that Leonardo drew so well because he knew about things; it is truer to say that he knew about things because he drew so well.

~Kenneth Clark

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