

Kenneth Koch

Quotes

*Writing, Mean, Poet, Seems, Love, Looks, New York, People, Smart, Waste,
Beach, Details, Should, Cheer, Hands, Ordinary, Stories, All Time, Four, Has
Beens*

You aren't just the age you are. You are all the ages you ever have been!

~Kenneth Koch

As for political poetry, as it's usually defined, it seems there's very little good political poetry.

~Kenneth Koch

I'm a writer who likes to be influenced.

~Kenneth Koch

Picasso said once when being interviewed that one should not be one's own connoisseur.

~Kenneth Koch

When you finish a poem, it clicks shut like the top of a jewel box, but prose is endless. I haven't experienced an awful lot of clicking shut!

~Kenneth Koch

Certainly, it seems true enough that there's a good deal of irony in the world... I mean, if you live in a world full of politicians and advertising, there's obviously a lot of deception.

~Kenneth Koch

I've had trouble with criticism, I guess. It's hard to know what role criticism plays in either encouraging poets or in getting other people to read them.

~Kenneth Koch

Summer in the trees! It is time to strangle several bad poets.

~Kenneth Koch

I got married, other people went off. We had sort of another public—we were our entire readership for many years, and we were very excited by

each other.

~Kenneth Koch

I was born in Cincinnati, Ohio. My family was not nationally known as being a literary family, though my mother and my mother's side of the family in general were interested in literature.

~Kenneth Koch

Maybe there are three or four really good poets in a generation.

~Kenneth Koch

One trouble with a kind of falsely therapeutic and always reassuring attitude that it is easy to fall into with old people, is the tendency to be satisfied with too little.

~Kenneth Koch

Also, I liked John Cage's music. I liked it for its craziness, the use of silence, the boldness-anything to get me away from writing about.. I don't know what academic poets write about.

~Kenneth Koch

Poetry is a deliberate attempt to make language suggestive and imprecise.

~Kenneth Koch

It takes a long time to publish a book.

~Kenneth Koch

I never thought of myself as a New York poet or as an American poet.

~Kenneth Koch

It's a well known thing that ordinary perceptions can have a strange aspect when one is travelling.

~Kenneth Koch

You can't be too influenced by a great poet. You simply have to live through it.

~Kenneth Koch

I certainly have the feeling that I'm the same person even though I've changed a great deal.

~Kenneth Koch

If you want to know how much I love and care for you, count the waves.

~Kenneth Koch

Poetry, which is written while no one is looking, is meant to be looked at for all time.

~Kenneth Koch

All poetry comes from repetition.

~Kenneth Koch

It seems everything is so full of possibilities one can hardly take it all in.

~Kenneth Koch

I don't think the nature of my poetry is satirical or even ironic, I think it's essentially lyrical but again I don't know if it's my position to say what my poetry is like.

~Kenneth Koch

It's enormously cheering to get a good review by someone who seems to understand your work.

~Kenneth Koch

The subject matter of the stories on the surface... there seem to be a number of stories about travel.

~Kenneth Koch

When you get an idea, go and write. Don't waste it in conversation.

~Kenneth Koch

One day the Nouns were clustered in the street. An Adjective walked by, with her dark beauty. The Nouns were struck, moved, changed. The next day a Verb drove up, and created the Sentence.

~Kenneth Koch

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