

Kim Hyesoon Quotes

*Korea, Writing, Thinking, Mother, World, Body, Men, Feminism, Voice, Girl,
Hair, Tongue, Country, Political, Crazy, Culture, Son, Giving, Government,
Female*

The rhythm of my body is the same as my mother tongue. It is in this rhythm where I find sanctity, that I can return to my mother who is everywhere in the universe.

~Kim Hyesoon

Men think women should do trivial things on the margins. They think women should be merely a seasoning for a dish. I feel anger and sorrow seeing this.

~Kim Hyesoon

Our mothers who have gone are buried in our bodies. It can be said that we were born with dead mothers in our body.

~Kim Hyesoon

Mother does not exist, like water that has given life to a flower and then disappeared. Mothers live somewhere after giving birth to us.

~Kim Hyesoon

Poems are a dance of language that comes out when my body taps into the rhythm of language. Rhythm gets us naked and exposes our selves completely.

~Kim Hyesoon

I have to reach "the poetry condition" to write. Then it is as if the border around me is thinned or blurred or erased or disappeared or dead.

~Kim Hyesoon

Women who have been disappeared by violence are howling. The voices of disappeared women are echoing. I sing with these voices.

~Kim Hyesoon

Living in South Korea as a girl meant living under a lot of discrimination and limitation. It was the same in my university and in the Korean literary world I am involved in.

~Kim Hyesoon

If you propose there is a feminism problem in Korea, somebody would point out that you are bringing up antiquated issues. No one acknowledges that discrimination against women is still widespread.

~Kim Hyesoon

It seems Korean women are enjoying a passive and fragile status, intoxicated by appearance. Not only feminism, but any serious discourse ends up being swept away by popular culture in Korea.

~Kim Hyesoon

I came to grotesque language in the patriarchal culture under the dictatorship. The body that was broken into pieces is a sick body. I put the disease of this world and my sick body together.

~Kim Hyesoon

As a university student, I tried hard to write poems in Korean. It was at that time that I foresaw my death and the world's death. I think my poems started at that time.

~Kim Hyesoon

When anger and sorrow overflow, sometimes it becomes poetry.

~Kim Hyesoon

Korean feminism has been swept away by popular culture. It became a sort of old-fashioned trend or a joke.

~Kim Hyesoon

Mother is a synonym for abandonment and death. Comparing this synonym to water, it is like poured-out water. I call it mother, the identity that I cannot identify.

~Kim Hyesoon

My mom does not exist anymore, and I cannot see my mother in myself. To me, the word "mother" is the synonym for the words "parting" or "separation" or "farewell."

~Kim Hyesoon

The language of poetry is not stuck in place. Nothing can own language. I think, however, the genre of poetry itself is very feminine and motherly.

~Kim Hyesoon

I am a tomb robber who is robbing my own tomb. Things from my tomb are exhibited under the radiant sun. Every time it happens I feel crude.

~Kim Hyesoon

If someone asks, Is anyone alive? Break, your, head, open, and, show, your, ten, ta, cle.

~Kim Hyesoon

Living in Korea as a girl meant living under a lot of discrimination and limitation. It was the same in my university and in the Korean literary world I am involved in now.

~Kim Hyesoon

Women are foils to men. It is hard for women to take a lead role even in NGOs for political resistance.

~Kim Hyesoon

Poems are ways of saying you clearly remember the day of your death and your tomb. When I am writing poetry, I relive my days when a woman inside me dies many times.

~Kim Hyesoon

When I was at university, the policemen used to measure how short the women's mini-skirts were and how long guys' hair was. We were living

under a government that considers people to be soldiers.

~Kim Hyesoon

When I first started to write poetry, I used to feel as if my tongue would go numb.

~Kim Hyesoon

Women in Korean myths disappear after giving birth. The reason they were born is to produce sons.

~Kim Hyesoon

Speaking as an outsider is the most authentic voice for a poet. Poets who have one hundred thousand or one million readers [as many South Korean poets do] might not be a real, authentic poet.

~Kim Hyesoon

The grotesque in my poems is the motion I use to put myself and the grotesque world together. So the miserable images I use in my poems are the same as the letters I send into the miserable world.

~Kim Hyesoon

In my opinion, poets talk through the symptoms of disease. These symptoms of disease are predictions, screams, and songs.

~Kim Hyesoon

The body of poetry is nothing but energy, waves, rhythm.

~Kim Hyesoon

There is a specific kind of day when I feel like writing poems. My senses become really sharp. This day is when I feel as if I am drowning into the abandonment of death.

~Kim Hyesoon

In poetry, rhythm is a priority above everything else.

~Kim Hyesoon

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