

Lawrence Ferlinghetti

Quotes

World, Book, Thinking, Wonder, Waiting, War, Writing, Mean, Art, Government, Country, New York, People, Couple, Long, Fall, Ideas, Rhyming, Poet, Editors

If you're too open-minded; your brains will fall out.

~Lawrence Ferlinghetti

Poetry is eternal graffiti written in the heart of everyone.

~Lawrence Ferlinghetti

Anyone who saw Nagasaki would suddenly realize that they'd been kept in the dark by the United States government as to what atomic bombs can do.

~Lawrence Ferlinghetti

Poetry is a naked woman, a naked man, and the distance between them.

~Lawrence Ferlinghetti

Our government is a bird with two right wings... They're devoted to the perpetuation & spread of corporate capitalism.

~Lawrence Ferlinghetti

If you would be a poet, write living newspapers. Be a reporter from outer space, filing dispatches to some supreme managing editor who believes in full disclosure and has a low tolerance for bullshit.

~Lawrence Ferlinghetti

Freedom of speech is always under attack by Fascist mentality, which exists in all parts of the world, unfortunately.

~Lawrence Ferlinghetti

I am awaiting perpetually and forever a renaissance of wonder

~Lawrence Ferlinghetti

I am waiting for the lost music to sound again in a new rebirth of wonder.

~Lawrence Ferlinghetti

We have to raise the consciousness; the only way poets can change the world is to raise the consciousness of the general populace.

~Lawrence Ferlinghetti

Poetry must be capable of answering the challenge of apocalyptic times, even if this means sounding apocalyptic.

~Lawrence Ferlinghetti

We have seen the best minds of our generation destroyed by boredom at poetry readings.

~Lawrence Ferlinghetti

To say one is revolutionary is a little like saying one is a Zen Buddhist - if you say you are, you probably aren't.

~Lawrence Ferlinghetti

The art has to make it on its own, without explanations, and it's the same for poetry. If the poem or the painting has to be explained, then it's a failure in communication.

~Lawrence Ferlinghetti

Beauty stands and waits with gravity to start her death-defying leap

~Lawrence Ferlinghetti

Constantly risking absurdity and death whenever he performs above the heads of his audience, the poet, like an acrobat, climbs on rhyme to a high wire of his own making.

~Lawrence Ferlinghetti

Make your mind learn its way around the heart.

~Lawrence Ferlinghetti

The state of the world calls out for poetry to save it.

~Lawrence Ferlinghetti

There is an ecstatic mechanism in birds that makes them fly upwards in spite of worms.

~Lawrence Ferlinghetti

When you're young, everything seems like a romance. At 96, I can still feel romantic about publishing young unknown writers.

~Lawrence Ferlinghetti

Poetry is the shadow cast by our streetlight imaginations.

~Lawrence Ferlinghetti

Invent a new language anyone can understand.

~Lawrence Ferlinghetti

I once started out to walk around the world but ended up in Brooklyn, that Bridge was too much for me.

~Lawrence Ferlinghetti

I think if there's a great depression there might be some hope.

~Lawrence Ferlinghetti

the poet like an acrobat climbs on rime to a high wire of his own making.

~Lawrence Ferlinghetti

The future of publishing lies with the small and medium-sized presses, because the big publishers in New York are all part of huge conglomerates.

~Lawrence Ferlinghetti

Everything the Beats stood for was the opposite of the dominant culture today.

~Lawrence Ferlinghetti

This is all very nice, because the ideas that Jack and the Beat generation stood for are needed today more than ever. But I'm not so interested in nostalgia. I'm interested in the future.

~Lawrence Ferlinghetti

I'm reading a book about Romaine Brooks, a wonderful painter from early in the last century.

~Lawrence Ferlinghetti

I'd ban all automobiles from the central part of the city. You see, the automobile was just a passing fad. It's got to go. It's got to go a long way from here.

~Lawrence Ferlinghetti

The real literary editors have mostly been fired. Those that remain are all 'bottom line' editors; everything depends on the money.

~Lawrence Ferlinghetti

Don't bow down to critics who have not themselves written great masterpieces.

~Lawrence Ferlinghetti

In Goya's greatest scenes we seem to see the people of the world exactly at the moment when they first attained the title of 'suffering humanity'

~Lawrence Ferlinghetti

The paintings may communicate even better because people are lazy and they can look at a painting with less effort than they can read a poem.

~Lawrence Ferlinghetti

Southern California, where the American Dream came too true.

~Lawrence Ferlinghetti

I didn't know that painters and writers retired. They're like soldiers - they just fade away.

~Lawrence Ferlinghetti

We were just a one-room bookstore; we didn't have any money for lawyers.

~Lawrence Ferlinghetti

Well, I didn't know how to draw very well back then, in the '40s and '50s.

~Lawrence Ferlinghetti

The world is a beautiful place to be born into if you don't mind some people dying all the time or maybe only starving some of the time which isn't half so bad if it isn't you.

~Lawrence Ferlinghetti

For even bad poetry has relevance for what it does not say for what it leaves out.

~Lawrence Ferlinghetti

My country tears of thee.

~Lawrence Ferlinghetti

Almost every truly creative being alienated & expatriated in his own country

~Lawrence Ferlinghetti

[in the true mad north] of introspection, where 'falcons of the inner eye' dive and die, glimpsing in their dying fall, all life's memory of existence.

~Lawrence Ferlinghetti

They were looking for a stable, but we didn't have one. In fact, we weren't very stable ourselves.

~Lawrence Ferlinghetti

I am waiting for the war to be fought which will make the world safe for anarchy

~Lawrence Ferlinghetti

As I get older I perceive Life has its tail in its mouth.

~Lawrence Ferlinghetti

I have a feeling I'm falling on rare occasions but most of the time I have my feet on the ground I can't help it if the ground itself is falling.

~Lawrence Ferlinghetti

I feel there is an angel in me' she'd say 'whom I am constantly shocking

~Lawrence Ferlinghetti

When I was a boy I was my father.

~Lawrence Ferlinghetti

A lot of manuscripts that come in, you wonder by what outrageous fantasy the author believes that this should be pressed into print.

~Lawrence Ferlinghetti

It's much easier to consume the visual image than to read something.

~Lawrence Ferlinghetti

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