

# Leni Zumas

## Quotes

*Writing, Thinking, People, Decision, World, Cutting, Class, Language, Persons,  
Loss, Numbers, Way, Teacher, Space, Dramatic, Mean, Conventional,  
Remember, White, Portland*

The act of language or the act of denying language carries its own heaviness.

~Leni Zumas

Giving the reader the space to move around and be active, and encourage their active response is important to me. That will connect the reader more to the text.

~Leni Zumas

There's relief in white space for the reader.

~Leni Zumas

Synesthesia has interested me for a long time, both as a literary device and as a puncturing of the membranes that organize how the world comes into someone's head.

~Leni Zumas

I have what I came to find in my research is a mild form of synesthesia, though I never would have labeled it as such. It's how I think about numbers and letters. They all have inherent genders.

~Leni Zumas

For me, the genders are an essential element of numbers and letters, not something that could be removed from them.

~Leni Zumas

If a synesthetic person says the letter a is green, it can't ever be anything but green.

~Leni Zumas

I'm always interested in encountering people who are synesthetic and seeing how they experience things.

~Leni Zumas

I find myself writing protagonists who do feel pretty cut off from others but who want to make connections and aren't very good at it.

~Leni Zumas

Even in so-called realist or conventional writing there can be defamiliarization.

~Leni Zumas

I don't know whose sensibility I'm responding to. Until someone starts pushing against what they've inherited and starts making their own decisions about language, it's difficult.

~Leni Zumas

I felt sure about wanting to look at a person's life that had been limited or damaged, but not necessarily ennobled, by loss.

~Leni Zumas

There's always something else to work on and different solutions to these problems in the next thing. We each have a certain set of obsessions which we each cycle through.

~Leni Zumas

In my writing classes, I don't outlaw any genre writing.

~Leni Zumas

Portland is a pretty magnificent place to live.

~Leni Zumas

When I watch students make particular decisions about language, structure, and form, it sharpens my own thinking and my own development as a writer.

~Leni Zumas

Part of being a writer is feeling that constant dissatisfaction, thinking

about what else you could do, and also knowing when it's time to leave a project.

~Leni Zumas

In my short stories there's a lot of focus on people successfully and not successfully responding to some sorts of discomforts or instabilities.

~Leni Zumas

I cut hundreds of pages from my book because I felt myself being reiterative or redundant. Sometimes I wanted to leave just hints of things.

~Leni Zumas

Sometimes you just feel like you could work forever on something and never know when it's done.

~Leni Zumas

As someone who played music and never got famous, and remembers little fragments of that, I don't remember life as a dramatic flamboyant thing.

~Leni Zumas

I am fascinated by tiny, incremental changes, almost imperceptible shifts in how people orient themselves in the world, because those are in some ways the most hopeful.

~Leni Zumas

**Related Links:**

- Writing Quotes
- Thinking Quotes
- People Quotes
- Decision Quotes
- World Quotes
- Cutting Quotes
- Class Quotes
- Language Quotes
- Persons Quotes
- Loss Quotes
- Numbers Quotes
- Way Quotes
- Teacher Quotes
- Space Quotes
- Dramatic Quotes
- Mean Quotes
- Conventional Quotes
- Remember Quotes
- White Quotes
- Portland Quotes