

# Lou Reed Quotes

*Thinking, People, Writing, Mean, Song, Art, Rocks, Family, Play, Perfect, Want,  
Important, Reality, Night, Guitar, Philosophy, Doe, Mother, Heart, Velvet  
Underground*

I'm an artist and that means I can be as egotistical as I want to be.

~Lou Reed

You've gotta blow the roof off of your heart and let the universe in.

~Lou Reed

I'm not joking around when I've said occasionally, trying to learn how to play a D chord properly has been a very big thing for me.

~Lou Reed

Take a walk on the wild side.

~Lou Reed

One chord is fine. Two chords are pushing it. Three chords and you're into jazz.

~Lou Reed

Perfect Night has that magic and it has the raw energy that grabs you by the throat.

~Lou Reed

Perfect Night is minimalistic and that's what makes it so forceful.

~Lou Reed

But I'm also talented and I know when I created something great and Perfect Night is something great, no doubt, no but.

~Lou Reed

Life is like Sanskrit read to a pony.

~Lou Reed

Life's like a mayonnaise soda.

~Lou Reed

These are really terribly rough times, and we really should try to be as nice to each other as possible.

~Lou Reed

I think that everything happens for a reason, everything happens when it's going to happen.

~Lou Reed

You do this because you like it, you think what you're making is beautiful. And if you think it's beautiful, maybe they think it's beautiful.

~Lou Reed

The most important part of my religion is to play guitar.

~Lou Reed

You can't beat two guitars, bass, and drums.

~Lou Reed

It always bothers me to see people writing RIP when a person dies. It just feels so insincere and like a cop out. To me, RIP is the microwave dinner of posthumous honours.

~Lou Reed

Give me your hungry, your tired, your poor, that's what the Statue of Bigotry says. Your poor huddled masses, let's just club them to death, and get it over with.

~Lou Reed

My God is rock'n'roll.

~Lou Reed

There's only X amount of time. You can do whatever you want with that time. It's your time.

~Lou Reed

There's a bit of magic in everything, and some loss to even things out.

~Lou Reed

Things always seem to end before they start

~Lou Reed

Underachievers of the world unite, you have nothing to lose except your fright.

~Lou Reed

I don't believe in dressing up reality. I don't believe in using makeup to make things look smoother.

~Lou Reed

Meditation doesn't have to be complicated. What I do is about as simple as you can get. You could just count the beads, one, two, three, with your eyes closed or open, whatever makes you happy.

~Lou Reed

How can anybody learn anything from an artwork when the piece of art only reflects the vanity of the artist and not reality?

~Lou Reed

Herpes, AIDS, the Middle East at full throttle. Better check that sausage before you put it in the waffle.

~Lou Reed

But I found tai chi when I was studying with Leung Shum, who teaches Eagle Claw and Wu Hao.

~Lou Reed

Between thought and expression lies a lifetime.

~Lou Reed

I would like to live to a ripe old age and raise watermelons in Wyoming.

~Lou Reed

All I want to do, is write rock and roll that you could listen to as you got older, and it wouldn't lose anything; it would be timeless, in the subject matter and the literacy of the lyrics.

~Lou Reed

Well, everybody does something, some people race cars, others collect stamps, I find tai chi to be philosophically, aesthetically, physically and spiritually fascinating.

~Lou Reed

I'm tearing down Route 80 East, the sun's on my right side. I'm drunk, but my vision's good.

~Lou Reed

An eye for an eye is elemental.

~Lou Reed

I tried to give up drugs by drinking.

~Lou Reed

If it has more than three chords, it's jazz.

~Lou Reed

That's why I survived because I still believe I've got something to say.

~Lou Reed

You do what you love, or you get arrested.

~Lou Reed

My God is rock'n'roll. It's an obscure power that can change your life. The most important part of my religion is to play guitar.

~Lou Reed

I'll tell ya, I'm a genuinely nice guy. I really am. A real nice guy. But I think I'm temperamental.

~Lou Reed

I like druggo downtown kids who spray paint walls and trains. I like their lack of training, their primitive technique. I think it hurts you, when you stay too long in school.

~Lou Reed

You can't always trust your mother.

~Lou Reed

It's the music that kept us all intact, kept us from going crazy.

~Lou Reed

You know the expression 'God protects fools and drunks'? I qualify for both.

~Lou Reed

I can create a vibe without saying anything, just by being in the room.

~Lou Reed

Does anyone need yet another politician caught with his pants down and money sticking in his hole?

~Lou Reed

I like mindless disco... they say the lyrics are stupid and repetitious. So what's wrong with that? So is lying in the sun. Not everything has to be serious.

~Lou Reed

I always believed that I have something important to say and I said it.

~Lou Reed

My week beats your year.

~Lou Reed

Any human being should have a tolerance for anybody.

~Lou Reed

I don't like nostalgia unless it's mine.

~Lou Reed

It's just a temporary thing.

~Lou Reed

You're going to reap just what you sow

~Lou Reed

Nothing beats 2 guitars, drum and bass.

~Lou Reed

Some even claim that I'm a terror, a dictator and they're right.

~Lou Reed

The baby sits in front of MTV watching violent fantasies, while Dad guzzles beer with his favorite sport only to find his heroes all coked up.

~Lou Reed

I always thought martial arts was the most modern choreography we could have right now, and I always wanted to put it to music.

~Lou Reed

They tied his arms behind his back to teach him how to swim, they put blood in his coffee and milk in his gin.

~Lou Reed

I don't think I'm in any position to call myself a martial artist. I'm a student of the martial arts.

~Lou Reed

Me, I've concentrated on music pretty much to the exclusion of other things.

~Lou Reed

I can't do anything I want to. I mean, I can't have my own TV show. I can't have my own movie. But within my little world, nobody tells me what to put on the albums.

~Lou Reed

I think life is far too short to concentrate on your past. I rather look into the future.

~Lou Reed

First thing you learn is that you've always got to wait

~Lou Reed

When the past makes you laugh and you can savor the magic that lets you survive your own war, you'll find that that fire is passion and there's a door up ahead - not a wall.

~Lou Reed

I am very emotionally affected by sound. Sounds are the inexplicable... There is a sound you hear in your head, it's your nerves, or your blood running.

~Lou Reed

Valium would have helped that bash.

~Lou Reed

Music was what bothered me, what interested me.



~Lou Reed

I shot a vein in my neck and coughed up a quaalude.

~Lou Reed

The heart says what only the heart knows.

~Lou Reed

All the people have gone to war leaving no interrogator to mind.

~Lou Reed

I have no control over the audience. I have no idea what they think. My heart's pure. I can't do anything. I really can't do anything. I don't know what goes on in the crowd.

~Lou Reed

I've always believed that there's an amazing number of things you can do through a rock'n'roll song and that you can do serious writing in a rock song if you can somehow do it without losing the beat.

~Lou Reed

The music is all. People should die for it. People are dying for everything else, so why not the music?

~Lou Reed

I never liked the Beatles. I thought they were garbage.

~Lou Reed

I think it's pretentious to create art just for the sake of stroking the artists ego.

~Lou Reed

In the late '70s I started to search for the perfect sound - whatever that might be, before that I was mainly interested in drugs, insanity and the

rock'n'roll lifestyle.

~Lou Reed

I cleaned up my act because otherwise I would have kicked the bucket.

~Lou Reed

It's depressing when you're still around and your albums are out of print.

~Lou Reed

Sound is more than just noise. Ordered sound is music. My life is music.

~Lou Reed

Some people drink to unleash their libidos, and other people drink to prop up their egos.

~Lou Reed

And no kinds of love are better than others

~Lou Reed

When you think the night has seen your mind,  
That inside your twisted and unkind,  
Let me stand to show that you are blind.  
Please put down you hands cause I see you.  
I'll be you mirror.

~Lou Reed

I don't know anyone actually who does care what a critic says.

~Lou Reed

Electricity comes from other planets.

~Lou Reed

I had started also studying because I wanted to learn more about power and fighting.

~Lou Reed

Dear Pope, send me some hope or a rope.

~Lou Reed

Honey, I'm a cocksucker, what are you?

~Lou Reed

To wish for the crazy times one last time and freeze it in the memory of a camera is the least a great artist can do.

~Lou Reed

You can't ask me to explain the lyrics because I won't do it.

~Lou Reed

I'd harbored hopes that the intelligence that once inhabited novels or films would ingest rock. I was, perhaps, wrong.

~Lou Reed

You won't see my parents honored on any stamps.

~Lou Reed

You're a musician: You play. That's what you do.

~Lou Reed

With Master Ren, if I'd tell him I can't do that and he'd say, yes you can, and it turns out I very much can do it.

~Lou Reed

I don't really think about what the subject of my next album will be. I just know that I'm going to make another album.

~Lou Reed

When I saw that combination of grace and power, the fast and the soft,

the yin and the yang, that's what I'd been looking for.

~Lou Reed

I'm writing about real things. Real people. Real characters. You have to believe what I write about is true or you wouldn't pay any attention at all.

~Lou Reed

I don't mind a repetitive chorus; I mind repetitive verse. I mean, it's the same amount of space. Why would you have only three diamonds if you can have six?

~Lou Reed

High energy does not necessarily mean fast, high energy has to do with heart.

~Lou Reed

I try very much, whenever I do projects, whatever it is, there's only one thing on my mind, only one thing.

~Lou Reed

I mean, there are peripheral things I do, I do photography, I write plays, I have books published, but that's neither here nor there.

~Lou Reed

My attitude is that you very rarely come in contact with someone of Master Ren's level, so every opportunity I could get to learn from him I wanted to do that.

~Lou Reed

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