

M.I.A. Quotes

*Thinking, People, Art, Creativity, Song, White, Hip Hop, Political, Kids, Running,
Ideas, Creative, Writing, Want, Voice, Different, Names, Feels, Hate, Long*

I fly like paper, get high like planes
If you catch me at the border, I got visas in my name

~M.I.A.

Confidence takes constant nurturing, like a bed, it must be remade every day.

~M.I.A.

Rage and grief are savage companions, but despair is the final undoing.

~M.I.A.

I feel like a mirror reflecting back everyones perception of me.

~M.I.A.

If right now, culture's so divisive, it just leaves these millions of people like me out.

~M.I.A.

I already feel that I am making a political statement by sticking around in music, when I am doing it so differently to everyone else.

~M.I.A.

Retirement: a brand new beginning! How wonderful!

~M.I.A.

I hate the idea of street art. With music, I just needed my brain and my voice, which didn't cost anything.

~M.I.A.

Even if you're frustrated, how do you express yourself? There's no subculture like back in the day.

~M.I.A.

Besides, isn't it more exciting when you don't have permission?

~M.I.A.

My statements aren't incomplete, they're just in-progress. It's a debate and a discussion.

~M.I.A.

Nike is the uniform for kids all over the world, and African design has been killed by Nike. Africans no longer want to wear their own designs.

~M.I.A.

Instead of going to war, we should put the money into arts and culture and let creative people define what Britain is.

~M.I.A.

Just make music; don't talk about politics.

~M.I.A.

Uncomfortable silences. Why do we feel it's necessary to yak about bullshit in order to be comfortable?

~M.I.A.

Any piece of art, when you're putting it on a certain platform, if the platform becomes a political place, you can manipulate things.

~M.I.A.

I am the bridge between the East and the West. I don't want to abandon one for the other.

~M.I.A.

I'm still working out my opinions - it's always a question mark. I leave loads of space open, and people don't like that.

~M.I.A.

That's what I miss, being a real human.

~M.I.A.

Music that was made in the 60s and 70s did come from a really soulful place. The seed for the songs written in the 90s were planted in those songs, even though they were samples.

~M.I.A.

I feel like I'm living in the dead weeds of hip-hop. I live in the graveyard of what went wrong with hip-hop.

~M.I.A.

I just think that funerals are a lot like death itself. You can have your wishes, your plans, but at the end of the day, it's out of your control.

~M.I.A.

Everyone has that moment where they just rebel.

~M.I.A.

Across the world, on your phone, everybody gets the same list of things to read, listen to, and watch.

~M.I.A.

I named my first album after my dad because I wanted to find him. My second album was named after my mom because I felt like I learned all my creative talents I learned from her.

~M.I.A.

What's wrong with hip-hop [is that] it became so one-dimensional; it became like a businessman thing. It's run out of creativity. It went so far off about making money that now everyone can do it.

~M.I.A.

I've documented a lot of things myself as a filmmaker. If you want a

rockumentary, that's in there.

~M.I.A.

When I came to England in '86, my first week of school was terrible because I would put my hand up to answer things, and no one would choose me because they couldn't say my name.

~M.I.A.

That's what New York is like - you can't have real art happen in an institution because rich people can make the world stop. The stuff on the street is a lot more interesting.

~M.I.A.

What really drives me mad about art is that, in America, the only thing you can do is to take it apart.

~M.I.A.

By the time it came to the 90s, the late 90s, being a businessman was the beacon to uphold. We've been having the concept of the best rapper equals the best businessman.

~M.I.A.

There has been an effect of business rap on the output of today's rap music. But I don't think that's the modern day rapper's fault.

~M.I.A.

Before the Greeks were the Tamils. The Tamils are one of the oldest civilizations that's still surviving.

~M.I.A.

The music industry was invented, like, 100 years ago. I'm talking about the goddess Matangi, who invented music 5,000 years ago. She was the only thing that inspired me.

~M.I.A.

That's what's inspiring to me - finding someplace where people haven't already seen themselves in a certain light.

~M.I.A.

It's the only thing to do when you're in London - hang out in a taxi.

~M.I.A.

It could be the sort of declining grip of the American MTV-nation culture-the fact that MTV doesn't play so much music anymore.

~M.I.A.

We know that those huge U.S. brands do have political sway.

~M.I.A.

I'm not sticking up for white kids - I'm going to have a barrage of hate mail - but it's true. If you're poor, you're really poor.

~M.I.A.

My experience has to be funnelled through a black experience or a white experience, or it doesn't exist, because that's how we're going to deal with the world.

~M.I.A.

In England right now you're not good enough until you get validated.

~M.I.A.

I feel so terrible for the kids now. In London, even people in their forties can't afford to buy a house or have kids.

~M.I.A.

If it's just politics that's running music, f - k that. I'm out of here! I can't think of anything more boring.

~M.I.A.

I find the new Justin Bieber video more violent and more of an assault to my eyes and senses than what I've made.

~M.I.A.

I'd be very controversial if I said why, and I don't do controversial anymore. That's too passÃ©. So last year. Being controversial is boring now.

~M.I.A.

I feel like I can't really have a comment.

~M.I.A.

Creativity needs time to harness before it goes out, and because that's difficult, memes have become the creative language.

~M.I.A.

I don't really see a difference in independent and major labels. To me, it's pretty much the same. There used to be a difference between indies and major labels, but I don't think there is anymore.

~M.I.A.

If music's a political place, I'm out.

~M.I.A.

If you narrow the playing field, the next generation has less to put out, to eat and regenerate from.

~M.I.A.

I come from a generation where you put the art out and had the luxury to sit back and watch the world deconstruct it, and that was valued. Unfortunately now the work lives in a weird context.

~M.I.A.

You have to have your fashion stylist person not sell out and sell your s

- t to another pop star because they can pay them twice as much, and do it for the belief and the love of art.

~M.I.A.

I dont support terrorism and never have. As a Sri Lankan that fled war and bombings, my music is the voice of the civilian refugee.

~M.I.A.

The music industry is so tied up politically. They're afraid they might let other voices in.

~M.I.A.

That divide between the rich and poor is so crazy, because even white kids are suffering now.

~M.I.A.

Businessmen in society are not going to be the ones that promote anything outside of money.

~M.I.A.

With homogenized culture, even if you feel frustrated, you'd have to write a Taylor Swift song to get heard.

~M.I.A.

Whoever's inside is inside; whoever's out is out.

~M.I.A.

You have to constantly redefine who you are.

~M.I.A.

Everything I think seems to be controversial, so I feel like I need to just go away for a second and put it all down on paper until the storm passes.

~M.I.A.

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