

Marcel Duchamp

Quotes

*Art, Artist, Ideas, Two, Art Is, Men, Chess, Three, Believe, Creative, Creativity,
Beauty, Habit, Self, Years, Important, Space, Painting, Mean, Reason*

I don't believe in art. I believe in artists.

~Marcel Duchamp

The artist performs only one part of the creative process. The onlooker completes it, and it is the onlooker who has the last word.

~Marcel Duchamp

Anything is art if an artist says it is.

~Marcel Duchamp

It's not what you see that is art. Art is the gap.

~Marcel Duchamp

Artmaking is making the invisible, visible.

~Marcel Duchamp

I have forced myself to contradict myself in order to avoid conforming to my own taste.

~Marcel Duchamp

Destruction is also creation.

~Marcel Duchamp

I am interested in ideas, not merely in visual products.

~Marcel Duchamp

You cannot define electricity. The same can be said of art. It is a kind of inner current in a human being, or something which needs no definition.

~Marcel Duchamp

Living is more a question of what one spends than what one makes.

~Marcel Duchamp

It's the viewer that makes the work.

~Marcel Duchamp

Aesthetic delectation is the danger to be avoided.

~Marcel Duchamp

What I have in mind is that art may be bad, good or indifferent, but, whatever adjective is used, we must call it art, and bad art is still art in the same way that a bad emotion is still an emotion.

~Marcel Duchamp

Humor is the only reason to live.

~Marcel Duchamp

Art is not about itself but the attention we bring to it.

~Marcel Duchamp

Art has the lovely habit of ruining all artistic theories.

~Marcel Duchamp

The life of an artist is like the life of a monk, a lewd monk if you like, very Rabelaisian. It is an ordination.

~Marcel Duchamp

Do unto others as they wish, but with imagination.

~Marcel Duchamp

I believe that the artist doesn't know what he does. I attach even more importance to the spectator than to the artist.

~Marcel Duchamp

Art is like a shipwreck; it's every man for himself.

~Marcel Duchamp

It's true, of course, humor is very important in my life, as you know. That's the only reason for living, in fact.

~Marcel Duchamp

I've decided that art is a habit-forming drug. That's all it is, for the artist, for the collector, for anybody connected with it.

~Marcel Duchamp

If a shadow is a two-dimensional projection of the three-dimensional world, then the three-dimensional world as we know it is the projection of the four-dimensional Universe.

~Marcel Duchamp

To all appearances, the artist acts like a mediumistic being who, from the labyrinth beyond time and space, seeks his way out to a clearing.

~Marcel Duchamp

Unless a picture shocks, it is nothing.

~Marcel Duchamp

In the last analysis, the artist may shout from all the rooftops that he is a genius; he will have to wait for the verdict of posterity.

~Marcel Duchamp

I don't care about the word 'art' because it has been so discredited. So I want to get rid of it. There is an unnecessary adoration of 'art' today.

~Marcel Duchamp

I feel shame, not for the wrong things I have done, but for the right things that I have failed to do.

~Marcel Duchamp

I was interested in ideas, not merely visual products. I wanted to put

painting once again at the service of the mind.

~Marcel Duchamp

The only thing that is not art is inattention

~Marcel Duchamp

I believe that a picture, a work of art, lives and dies just as we do.

~Marcel Duchamp

My idea was to chose an object that wouldn't attract me, either by its beauty or by its ugliness. To find a point of indifference in my looking at it, you see

~Marcel Duchamp

While all artists are not chess players, all chess players are artists.

~Marcel Duchamp

The most interesting thing about artists is how they live

~Marcel Duchamp

My art would be that of living: each moment, each breath is a work inscribed nowhere.

~Marcel Duchamp

In the creative act, the artist goes from intention to realization through a chain of totally subjective reactions.

~Marcel Duchamp

All decisions in the artistic execution of the work rest with pure intuition and cannot be translated into a self-analysis.

~Marcel Duchamp

No, the thing to do is try to make a painting that will be alive in your own lifetime.

~Marcel Duchamp

I think there is a great deal to the idea of not doing a thing, but that when you do a thing, you don't do it in five minutes or in five hours, but in five years.

~Marcel Duchamp

This concern which interests us more than anything else: the blurring of the distinction between art and life.

~Marcel Duchamp

I consider painting as a means of expression, not as a goal.

~Marcel Duchamp

Since the tubes of paint used by the artist are manufactured and ready made products we must conclude that all the paintings in the world are 'readymades aided' and also works of assemblage.

~Marcel Duchamp

Art has absolutely no existence as veracity, as truth.

~Marcel Duchamp

I thought to discourage aesthetics... I threw the bottlerack and the urinal in their faces and now they admire them for their aesthetic beauty.

~Marcel Duchamp

The individual, man as a man, man as a brain, if you like, interests me more than what he makes, because I've noticed that most artists only repeat themselves.

~Marcel Duchamp

The Chess pieces are the block alphabet which shapes thoughts; and these thoughts, although making a visual design on the chessboard, express their beauty abstractly, like a poem

~Marcel Duchamp

Chess is a sport. A violent sport.

~Marcel Duchamp

I am still a victim of chess. It has all the beauty of art - and much more. It cannot be commercialized. Chess is much purer than art in its social position.

~Marcel Duchamp

It is the spectators who make the pictures.

~Marcel Duchamp

The word 'art' interests me very much. If it comes from Sanskrit, as I've heard, it signifies 'making.'

~Marcel Duchamp

Chess can be described as the movement of pieces eating one another.

~Marcel Duchamp

I'm not at all sure that the concept of the readymade isn't the most important single idea to come out of my work.

~Marcel Duchamp

In my day artists wanted to be outcasts, pariahs. Now they are all integrated into society

~Marcel Duchamp

I was poking fun at myself most of all.

~Marcel Duchamp

Three or four drops of height have nothing to do with savageness.

~Marcel Duchamp

In New York in 1915 I bought at a hardware store a snow shovel on which I wrote in advance of the broken arm .

~Marcel Duchamp

There is no solution, for there is no problem.

~Marcel Duchamp

Possible reality [is obtained] by slightly bending physical and chemical laws.

~Marcel Duchamp

You know exactly what I think of photography. I would like to see it make people despise painting until something else will make photography unbearable. (In a letter to Alfred Stieglitz)

~Marcel Duchamp

Chess players are madmen of a certain quality, the way the artist is supposed to be, and isn't, in general.

~Marcel Duchamp

Among our articles of lazy hardware, I recommend the faucet that stops dripping when no one is listening to it.

~Marcel Duchamp

Can one make works which are not works of 'art'?

~Marcel Duchamp

An abstract painting need in 50 years by no means look "abstract" any longer.

~Marcel Duchamp

I wanted to kill art for myself.. ..a new thought for that object.

~Marcel Duchamp

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