

Marina Abramovic

Quotes

Artist, Art, Thinking, People, Way, Giving, Believe, Want, Important, Pain, Little, Mother, Hate, Performances, Ideas, Past, Challenges, Men, Looks, Children

I think communication starts when words are not present at all ... I think we put so much emphasis on language, actually silence is so much more important.

~Marina Abramovic

The function of the artist in a disturbed society is to give awareness of the universe, to ask the right questions, and to elevate the mind.

~Marina Abramovic

Theatre is fake... The knife is not real, the blood is not real, and the emotions are not real. Performance is just the opposite: the knife is real, the blood is real, and the emotions are real.

~Marina Abramovic

Because we never stop silently loving those who we once loved out loud

~Marina Abramovic

I am only interested in the ideas that become obsessive and make me feel uneasy. The ideas that I'm afraid of.

~Marina Abramovic

True love for whatever you are doing is the answer to everything.

~Marina Abramovic

A great artist has to be ready to fail.

~Marina Abramovic

Your ego can become an obstacle to your work. If you start believing in your greatness, it is the death of your creativity.

~Marina Abramovic

When you have so much pain, you think you will lose consciousness. If you say to yourself, 'So what, lose consciousness,' the pain goes

away.

~Marina Abramovic

If we go for the easy way, then we never change.

~Marina Abramovic

Don't even ask me why. I do not know, I have no answer to this insane behaviour.

~Marina Abramovic

Happiness comes from the full understanding of your own being.

~Marina Abramovic

Time is an illusion. Time only exists when we think about the past and the future. Time doesn't exist in the present here and now.

~Marina Abramovic

I just want to create situations where people forget time.

~Marina Abramovic

Why not do something strange and different for once? Artists can do whatever they want!

~Marina Abramovic

I have always staged my fears as a way to transcend them.

~Marina Abramovic

We are actually living in a million parallel realities every single minute.

~Marina Abramovic

An artist should not fall in love with another artist.

~Marina Abramovic

The hardest thing to do is something that is close to nothing.

~Marina Abramovic

The only thing I have learned is to find strength in yourself. No one can help you, no one can do anything for you, you have to do the work yourself.

~Marina Abramovic

To me the pain and the blood are merely means of artistic expression.

~Marina Abramovic

Art comes from life, not from the studio

~Marina Abramovic

I've always asked myself since I was young, what is my duty on this planet? What am I there for? Just to hang around? Everybody must have some purpose.

~Marina Abramovic

We always project into the future or reflect in the past, but we are so little in the present.

~Marina Abramovic

From the moment you are born, you could die. I think as an artist it is important to meditate on that.

~Marina Abramovic

Most people are more comfortable with what is familiar. I've spent my life doing the opposite.

~Marina Abramovic

All my inspiration comes from life. That's how it never stops, in a way.

~Marina Abramovic

I hate studio. For me, studio is a trap to overproduce and repeat

yourself. It is a habit that leads to art pollution.

~Marina Abramovic

With classical ballet you are literally injuring yourself.

~Marina Abramovic

The only way to change consciousness and the world around us is to start with yourself.

~Marina Abramovic

I realise the power of art that does not hang on the walls of galleries.

~Marina Abramovic

I am pure performance, and Robert Wilson is pure theater.

~Marina Abramovic

First of all, to do performance art, you really have to give 100 percent. I only know that I have to give 100 percent and then what happens, happens.

~Marina Abramovic

I have found that long durational art is really the key to changing consciousness. On such a deep level. Not just the performer, but the one looking at it.

~Marina Abramovic

I believe so much in the power of performance I don't want to convince people. I want them to experience it and come away convinced on their own.

~Marina Abramovic

We always want to do things the way we like, that's why we never change.

~Marina Abramovic

If you see a Renaissance body, this is completely ugly in this time. Everybody has to be skinny. But the Renaissance body with incredible flow of the meat everywhere, it was beauty.

~Marina Abramovic

But what is art other than revealing human nature?

~Marina Abramovic

When you have a nonverbal conversation with a total stranger, then he cant cover himself with words, he cant create a wall.

~Marina Abramovic

For me, the most difficult piece is the one I'm about to make.

~Marina Abramovic

Because of technology, we don't develop telepathy. We don't use telepathy, but use, you know, the mobile phones. Why?

~Marina Abramovic

It's okay that we're not perfect. It's okay that we all have problems. It's okay to cry, to show emotions.

~Marina Abramovic

When you're 50, the best thing to do is dance the Argentinean tango.

~Marina Abramovic

You go to India and you see the poorest village somewhere in the middle of India. And the poor family is happier than any rich billionaire in this country because of spirituality.

~Marina Abramovic

My grandmother, when she looked at American movies, she said, 'They're all the same. In the first scene somebody shoots somebody and then everybody makes phone calls.'

~Marina Abramovic

The most revolutionary ideas are not sellable, but only mind-changing.

~Marina Abramovic

That's something that I'm trying to do in my work, to send a message to western people. They're the ones who are completely disconnected.

~Marina Abramovic

I really like dark, politically incorrect humor.

~Marina Abramovic

In real life, you just work for the ordinary self, but in the front of audience you become the superself. That's a completely different thing.

~Marina Abramovic

Television is completely another medium. For me, Lady Gaga and HBO are bringing us to mass culture.

~Marina Abramovic

You know, James Franco is one of the most interesting figures because he has no rules. He breaks all the borders.

~Marina Abramovic

I hate kitchens. I don't understand these enormous American kitchens that take up half the living room and then they just order pizza.

~Marina Abramovic

People put so much effort into starting a relationship and so little effort into ending one.

~Marina Abramovic

You know I very much respect Yvonne Rainer, she is very important - in

American dance, the entire development of modern dance, and creating a wonderful physical language.

~Marina Abramovic

Dali Lama said, 'when you open the heart of the person with humor, you can tell him the most truth. But if you tell him truth without humor, the heart closes.'

~Marina Abramovic

We make such terrible mistakes with visual choices about beauty.

~Marina Abramovic

An artist has to look at the future, to see what we can do better.

~Marina Abramovic

I'm interested in utopian communities of the past. Many of them didn't survive and I'm examining closely the reasons they failed.

~Marina Abramovic

In my work I have complete control, but about my life, I don't want to.

~Marina Abramovic

I think the role of artists in the past was very different. Artists had less responsibility in many ways.

~Marina Abramovic

I believe that life is shorter; that is why we have to make experience longer.

~Marina Abramovic

We are used to cleaning the outside house, but the most important house to clean is yourself - your own house - which we never do.

~Marina Abramovic

A powerful performance will transform everyone in the room.

~Marina Abramovic

I don't know anything about the afterlife because I haven't been there yet.

~Marina Abramovic

Every party is the same, too many people, too little food, and you have to wait around. I'm extremely bored with parties.

~Marina Abramovic

Being an artist is not easy - I have always said that to the students I have taught over the years. It's a huge sacrifice.

~Marina Abramovic

I didn't get paid for performances most of my life. If I did, I would be billionaire now, and I'm not.

~Marina Abramovic

GalÃ¡is is a great artist with a very powerful voice.

~Marina Abramovic

You know the movie "Rashomon" from [Takeshi] Kurosawa, when all the people in the forest see something different? Each performance was like that.

~Marina Abramovic

I had so much fear of blood, and the first thing I did was to cut myself to see what happens. That's the only way to rebuild yourself.

~Marina Abramovic

I am very clear that I am not a feminist. It puts you into a category and I don't like that.

~Marina Abramovic

Cancer is an emotional disease.

~Marina Abramovic

We're destroying the planet, and the planet rebels.

~Marina Abramovic

My work is immaterial. It's not painting, it's not sculpture, it's emotions. I'm giving you something to experience yourself.

~Marina Abramovic

In every ancient culture, there are rituals to mortify the body as a way of understanding that the energy of the soul is indestructible.

~Marina Abramovic

Typically, the performance has a story - a beginning, the crescendo and the end.

~Marina Abramovic

You can't choreograph death, but you can choreograph your funeral.

~Marina Abramovic

We always think of our own profit, but not in connection to others.

~Marina Abramovic

Even now, I have traces of the good little girl. When I am not performing, for instance, I am really very quiet and ordinary.

~Marina Abramovic

Artists should never think of themselves as an idol. Fame is a side effect of one's work.

~Marina Abramovic

One thing I learned from his holiness the Dali Lama is the importance of humor.

~Marina Abramovic

People ask me what book politicians should read. They should read the life of Mahatma Gandhi.

~Marina Abramovic

I have a problem with being a hero, but that's another problem.

~Marina Abramovic

I notice if I'm too fat or if I'm too ugly or there's skin hanging or whatever. When my clothes start not fitting, I get really self-conscious about what I eat.

~Marina Abramovic

I serve like a bridge. I go to other cultures, learn, put myself in different situations and learn as much as I can, and then go to Western cultures to give. I'm doing this bridging all the time.

~Marina Abramovic

We don't have politicians with dignity and morals. We never have, not since [Nelson] Mandela and [Mahatma] Gandhi. It's really rare.

~Marina Abramovic

I had such an intense relationship to every person. I still see people on the street and we lock eyes, and say "Oh my god!" and we just kiss and stay like that and sometimes cry.

~Marina Abramovic

Americans don't like European movies.

~Marina Abramovic

There's nothing more tragic than artists from the 70s still doing art from the 70s.

~Marina Abramovic

We, performers, work on willpower. This willpower works in a short term, not durational.

~Marina Abramovic

I didn't give any instruction to the video, because it was a new medium. I didn't know what to tell him; it was so young. I did the piece and immediately after the piece, I wanted to see the material.

~Marina Abramovic

We wanted to prove that I am not just a provocateur, as the television said [referring to a Fox news clip shown in the film]. It's challenging, but it's not just challenging.

~Marina Abramovic

I'm talking about intellectually and emotionally challenging, but at the same time it's actually not that challenging. So there's this dichotomy.

~Marina Abramovic

I think if people raise their consciousness and find a purpose, everybody will be helped.

~Marina Abramovic

Western culture has more need because they're so much more degenerated. They're so much more hurt, and misbalanced completely.

~Marina Abramovic

Americans aren't accepting of black humor, it's terrible.

~Marina Abramovic

I never say Serbia. I always say I come from a country that no longer exists.

~Marina Abramovic

Performance has to be mainstream art. This is what I'm fighting for.

~Marina Abramovic

I want to dominate the man's world.

~Marina Abramovic

Immaterial art is the strongest because there's no obstacle; there's just energy, and I believe in energy.

~Marina Abramovic

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