

# Martin Scorsese Quotes

*Thinking, People, Film, New York, Way, Trying, Years, Looks, Ideas, Italian,  
Moving, Editing, Artist, World, Want, Growing Up, Shooting, School, Unique,  
Matter*

There's no such thing as simple. Simple is hard.

~Martin Scorsese

You don't make up for your sins in church. You do it in the streets. You do it at home. The rest is bullshit and you know it.

~Martin Scorsese

Every scene is a lesson. Every shot is a school. Let the learning continue.

~Martin Scorsese

As a child I had terrible asthma.

~Martin Scorsese

More than ninety percent of directing a picture is the right casting

~Martin Scorsese

Now more than ever we need to talk to each other, to listen to each other and understand how we see the world, and cinema is the best medium for doing this.

~Martin Scorsese

I love movies - it's my whole life, and that's it.

~Martin Scorsese

Cinema is a matter of what's in the frame and what's out.

~Martin Scorsese

Always stay open to surprise.

~Martin Scorsese

I'm not interested in a realistic look, not at all, not ever. Every film should look the way I feel.

~Martin Scorsese

Music and film are inseparable. They always have been and always will be.

~Martin Scorsese

I loved the idea of seeing the world through a boy's eyes.

~Martin Scorsese

Your job is to get your audience to care about your obsessions.

~Martin Scorsese

I always tell the younger filmmakers and students: Do it like the painters used to...Study they old masters. Enrich your palette. Expand the canvas. There's always so much more to learn.

~Martin Scorsese

And as I've gotten older, I've had more of a tendency to look for people who live by kindness, tolerance, compassion, a gentler way of looking at things.

~Martin Scorsese

If you're looking for the origins of film culture in America, look no further than Amos Vogel.

~Martin Scorsese

The first element that I connected with was the emotion. Sorry, that's how it goes.

~Martin Scorsese

I also saw the Dalai Lama a few times.

~Martin Scorsese

There's a way that the force of disappointment can be alchemized into something that will paradoxically renew you.

~Martin Scorsese

Watching a Kubrick film is like gazing up at a mountaintop. You look up and wonder, how could anyone have climbed that high?

~Martin Scorsese

Eradicating a religion of kindness is, I think, a terrible thing for the Chinese to attempt.

~Martin Scorsese

The most important thing is the script.

~Martin Scorsese

Film in the 20th century, it's the American art form, like jazz.

~Martin Scorsese

You don't make pictures for Oscars.

~Martin Scorsese

When I'm making a film, I'm the audience.

~Martin Scorsese

Always get to the set or the location early, so that you can be all alone and draw your inspiration for the blocking and the setups in private and quiet.

~Martin Scorsese

There are times when you have to face your enemies, sit down and deal with it.

~Martin Scorsese

You've got to love something enough to kill it.

~Martin Scorsese

The most important thing is, how can I move forward towards something that I can't articulate, that is new in storytelling with moving

images and sound?

~Martin Scorsese

Howard Hughes was this visionary who was obsessed with speed and flying like a god... I loved his idea of what filmmaking was.

~Martin Scorsese

It did remind me of something out of Greek mythology - the richest king who gets everything he wants, but ultimately his family has a curse on it from the Gods.

~Martin Scorsese

Sometimes when you're heavy into the shooting or editing of a picture, you get to the point where you don't know if you could ever do it again.

~Martin Scorsese

The storyboard for me is the way to visualise the entire movie in advance.

~Martin Scorsese

I have a desire to tell stories. And I'm never quite satisfied.

~Martin Scorsese

I love studying Ancient History and seeing how empires rise and fall, sowing the seeds of their own destruction.

~Martin Scorsese

People have to start talking to know more about other cultures and to understand each other.

~Martin Scorsese

The term 'giant' is used too often to describe artists. But in the case of Akira Kurosawa, we have one of the rare instances where the term fits.

~Martin Scorsese

I'd like to do a number of films. Westerns. Genre pieces. Maybe another film about Italian Americans where they're not gangsters, just to prove that not all Italians are gangsters.

~Martin Scorsese

I'm not a Hollywood director. I'm an in spite of Hollywood director.

~Martin Scorsese

If I'm not complaining, I'm not having a good time, hah hah!

~Martin Scorsese

I've seen many, many movies over the years, and there are only a few that suddenly inspire you so much that you want to continue to make films.

~Martin Scorsese

If everything moves along and there are no major catastrophes we're basically headed towards holograms.

~Martin Scorsese

I always say that I've been in a bad mood for maybe 35 years now. I try to lighten it up, but that's what comes out when you get me on camera.

~Martin Scorsese

I've been thrown out of schools and fired from jobs. I don't want to work. I can honestly say I haven't done an honest day's work in my life.

~Martin Scorsese

If your mother cooks Italian food, why should you go to a restaurant?

~Martin Scorsese

Very often I've known people who wouldn't say a word to each other, but they'd go to see movies together and experience life that way.

~Martin Scorsese

Food tells you everything about the way people live and who they are.

~Martin Scorsese

Every year or so, I try to do something; it keeps me refreshed as to what's going on in front of the lens, and I understand what the actor is going through.

~Martin Scorsese

I love the look of planes and the idea of how a plane flies. The more I learn about it the better I feel; while I still may not like it, I have a sense of what is really happening.

~Martin Scorsese

I tried for about two semesters in a preparatory seminary. But I was about 15 and didn't fully understand what a vocation means.

~Martin Scorsese

Working with HBO was an opportunity to experience creative freedom and 'long-form development' that filmmakers didn't have a chance to do before the emergence of shows like 'The Sopranos.'

~Martin Scorsese

I don't agree with everything he did in his life, but we're dealing with this Howard Hughes, at this point. And also ultimately the flaw in Howard Hughes, the curse so to speak.

~Martin Scorsese

There must be people who remember World War II and the Holocaust who can help us get out of this rut.

~Martin Scorsese

Alcohol decimated the working class and so many people.

~Martin Scorsese

All my life, I never really felt comfortable anywhere in New York, except maybe in an apartment somewhere.

~Martin Scorsese

I grew up in the Lower East Side, an Italian American - more Sicilian, actually.

~Martin Scorsese

I'm trying to find out what the hell we - who we are.

~Martin Scorsese

Mean Streets dealt with the American Dream, according to which everybody thinks they can get rich quick, and if they can't do it by legal means then they'll do it by illegal ones.

~Martin Scorsese

The vampire thing always works for some reason. Always works.

~Martin Scorsese

A lot of what I'm obsessed with is the relationship and the dynamics between people and the family, particularly brothers and their father.

~Martin Scorsese

I'm very phobic about flying, but I'm also drawn to it.

~Martin Scorsese

I happen to like vampires more than zombies.

~Martin Scorsese

I'm not videotaping my life, but in a way I am trying to put certain things about myself on canvas.

~Martin Scorsese

I don't know how else to tell the story except to utilise that vocabulary:



the rain, the darkness, the mansions, the framing, etc, the lighting and that sort of thing.

~Martin Scorsese

Could you double-check the envelope?

~Martin Scorsese

Any film, or to me any creative endeavour, no matter who you're working with, is, in many cases, a wonderful experience.

~Martin Scorsese

I didn't realize there are generations who do not know about the origins of film.

~Martin Scorsese

I go through periods, usually when I'm editing and shooting, of seeing only old films.

~Martin Scorsese

There was always a part of me that wanted to be an old-time director. But I couldn't do that. I'm not a pro.

~Martin Scorsese

I just wanted to be an ordinary parish priest.

~Martin Scorsese

I wouldn't presume to be God's point of view.

~Martin Scorsese

It seems to me that any sensible person must see that violence does not change the world and if it does, then only temporarily.

~Martin Scorsese

Young film makers should learn how to deal with the money and learn

how to deal with the power structure. Because it is like a battle.

~Martin Scorsese

I know there were many good policemen who died doing their duty. Some of the cops were even friends of ours. But a cop can go both ways.

~Martin Scorsese

It is not the most brilliant that excel in film, but the most patient!

~Martin Scorsese

You gotta understand, when moving images first started, people wanted sound, color, big screen and depth.

~Martin Scorsese

I don't think there's a subject matter that can't absorb 3-D; that can't tolerate the addition of depth as a storytelling technique.

~Martin Scorsese

All I can do is try to do the best work I can. I need to work, I like to work... although I complain about it, but I do like it - and I just need to make the best film I can.

~Martin Scorsese

On the one hand, you're the same person, but as you get older, you change somewhat, and you never know how it's going to affect your work.

~Martin Scorsese

If we just sit and exist, and understand that, I think it will be helpful in a world that seems like a record that's going faster and faster, we're spinning off the edge of the universe.

~Martin Scorsese

I think there's only one or two films where I've had all the financial support I needed. All the rest, I wish I'd had the money to shoot another ten days.

~Martin Scorsese

You've got to protect whatever creative talent you have left.

~Martin Scorsese

My films really have to be a part of a whole body of work that says something to me.

~Martin Scorsese

Death comes in a flash, and that's the truth of it, the person's gone in less than 24 frames of film.

~Martin Scorsese

The problem with anger is that it's so consuming. You've got to take it easy on yourself at a certain point.

~Martin Scorsese

Zombies, what are you going to do with them? Just keep chopping them up, shooting at them, shooting at them.

~Martin Scorsese

There are movies that change the whole way in which films are made, like Klute, where Gordon Willis's photography on the film is so textured, and, they said, too dark.

~Martin Scorsese

You have to put yourself in a situation, a lifestyle, that makes you do the work. Even if it's a monastery.

~Martin Scorsese

My whole life has been movies and religion. That's it. Nothing else.

~Martin Scorsese

Vic Armstrong is, of course, a legend

~Martin Scorsese

The only thing I really wanted was the freedom to be able to get what I want on film. I've dealt with the MPAA since 1973, so I know how to renegotiate and rework.

~Martin Scorsese

My father had this mythological sense of the old New York, and he used to tell me stories about these old gangs, particularly the Forty Thieves in the Fourth Ward.

~Martin Scorsese

I do know that some Buddhists are able to attain peace of mind.

~Martin Scorsese

The real truth, I thought, in terms of what faith is and what Christianity is.

~Martin Scorsese

I accept all awards. I like them.

~Martin Scorsese

I can't really envision a time when I'm not shooting something.

~Martin Scorsese

Hong Kong cinema is something you can't duplicate anyway.

~Martin Scorsese

Well the thing is that the New York of 1846 to 1862 was very different from downtown New York now. Really nothing from that period still exists in New York.

~Martin Scorsese

I don't like being in houses alone.

~Martin Scorsese

As you grow older, you change.

~Martin Scorsese

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