

Maurice Merleau-Ponty

Quotes

*World, Phenomenology, Thinking, Philosophy, Men, Self, Body, Believe, Speak,
Moving, Reflection, Language, Art, Doe, Perception, Fields, Mean,
Understanding, Views, Hands*

We know not through our intellect but through our experience.

~Maurice Merleau-Ponty

We should be sensitive to the thread of silence from which the tissue of speech is woven.

~Maurice Merleau-Ponty

We must therefore rediscover, after the natural world, the social world, not as an object or sum of objects, but as a permanent field or dimension of existence.

~Maurice Merleau-Ponty

To understand is to experience harmony between what we aim at and what is given, between the intention and the performance - and the body is our anchorage in the world.

~Maurice Merleau-Ponty

Because we are in the world, we are condemned to meaning, and we cannot do or say anything without its acquiring a name in history.

~Maurice Merleau-Ponty

The body is our general medium for having a world.

~Maurice Merleau-Ponty

Our own body is in the world as the heart is in the organism: it keeps the visible spectacle constantly alive, it breathes life into it and sustains it inwardly, and with it forms a system.

~Maurice Merleau-Ponty

I live in the facial expressions of the other, as I feel him living in mine.

~Maurice Merleau-Ponty

The body is to be compared, not to a physical object, but rather to a work of art.

~Maurice Merleau-Ponty

The photograph keeps open the instants which the onrush of time closes up forthwith; it destroys the overtaking, the overlapping, the metamorphosis of time.

~Maurice Merleau-Ponty

I am not in front of my body, I am in it or rather I am it... If we can still speak of interpretation in relation to the perception of one's own body, we shall have to say that it interprets itself.

~Maurice Merleau-Ponty

Like the weaver, the writer works on the wrong side of his material. He has only to do with the language, and it is thus that he suddenly finds himself surrounded by sense.

~Maurice Merleau-Ponty

Socrates reminds us that it is not the same thing, but almost the opposite, to understand religion and to accept it.

~Maurice Merleau-Ponty

The child lives in a world which he unhesitatingly believes accessible to all around him.

~Maurice Merleau-Ponty

Everyone is alone and yet nobody can do without other people, not just because they are useful... but also when it comes to happiness.

~Maurice Merleau-Ponty

[The sensate body possesses] an art of interrogating the sensible according to its own wishes, an inspired exegesis.

~Maurice Merleau-Ponty

My own words take me by surprise and teach me what to think.

~Maurice Merleau-Ponty

Language transcends us and yet we speak.

~Maurice Merleau-Ponty

Speech is not a means in the service of an external end. It contains its own rule of usage, ethics, and view of the world, as a gesture sometimes bears the whole truth about a man.

~Maurice Merleau-Ponty

To ask for an explanation is to explain the obscure by the more obscure.

~Maurice Merleau-Ponty

The world is nothing but 'world-as-meaning.

~Maurice Merleau-Ponty

I may speak many languages, but there remains one in which I live.

~Maurice Merleau-Ponty

The perceived world is the always-presupposed foundation of all rationality, all value, and all existence.

~Maurice Merleau-Ponty

I discover vision, not as a 'thinking about seeing,' to use Descartes expression, but as a gaze at grips with a visible world, and that is why for me there can be another's gaze.

~Maurice Merleau-Ponty

The world is... the natural setting of, and field for, all my thoughts and all my explicit perceptions.

~Maurice Merleau-Ponty

The flesh is at the heart of the world.

~Maurice Merleau-Ponty

It is a great good fortune, as Stendhal said, for one "to have his passion as a profession.

~Maurice Merleau-Ponty

It is the mission of the twentieth century to elucidate the irrational.

~Maurice Merleau-Ponty

It is the essence of certainty to be established only with reservations.

~Maurice Merleau-Ponty

Nothing determines me from outside, not because nothing acts upon me, but, on the contrary, because I am from the start outside myself and open to the world.

~Maurice Merleau-Ponty

Montaigne [puts] not self-satisfied understanding but a consciousness astonished at itself at the core of human existence.

~Maurice Merleau-Ponty

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