

# Michelangelo Antonioni

## Quotes

*People, Film, Men, Reality, Character, Ideas, Looks, Actors, Art, Want, Believe, Thinking, Directors, Drug, Order, Goes On, Attitude, Imagine, Struggle, Running*

When I am shooting a film I never think of how I want to shoot something; I simply shoot it.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

A film that can be described in words is not really a film.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

A man who renounces something is also a man who believes in something.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

A scene has to have a rhythm of its own, a structure of its own.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

Often to understand, we have to look into emptiness.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

You know what I would like to do: make a film with actors standing in empty space so that the spectator would have to imagine the background of the characters.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

A film you can explain in words is not a real film.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

My work is like digging, it's archaeological research among the arid materials of our times. That's how I understand my first films, and that's what I'm still doing...

~Michelangelo Antonioni

Hollywood is like being nowhere and talking to nobody about nothing.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

The greatest danger for those working in the cinema is the

extraordinary possibility it offers for lying.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

I always mistrust everything I see, which an image shows me, because I imagine what is beyond it. And what is beyond an image cannot be known.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

When a scene is being shot, it is very difficult to know what one wants it to say, and even if one does know, there is always a difference between what one has in mind and the result on film.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

When man becomes reconciled to nature, when space becomes his true background, these words and concepts will have lost their meaning, and we will no longer have to use them.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

I meant exactly what I said: that we are saddled with a culture that hasn't advanced as far as science.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

Till now I have never shot a scene without taking account of what stands behind the actors because the relationship between people and their surroundings is of prime importance.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

Reality has a quality of freedom about it that is hard to explain.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

Scientific man is already on the moon, and yet we are still living with the moral concepts of Homer.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

I simply know what the actor's attitude should be and what he should say. He doesn't, because he can't see the relationship that begins to exist between his body and the other things in the scene.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

I can't give any absolute definition of what love is, or even whether it ought to exist.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

If an actor tries to understand too much, he will act in an intellectual and unnatural manner.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

Monica Vitti is astonishingly mobile. Few actresses have such mobile features. She has her own personal and original way of acting.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

You cannot penetrate events with reportage.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

Nothing regarding man is ever inhuman. That's why I make films, not iceboxes.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

The script is simply a series of notes for the film.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

People are always misquoting me.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

I began taking liberties a long time ago; now it is standard practice for most directors to ignore the rules.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

The struggle for life is not only the material and economic one. Comfort is no protection from anxiety.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

Violence is not the only means of persuasion.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

After you've learned two or three basic rules of cinema grammar, you can do what you like - including breaking those rules.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

I want an actor to try to give me what I ask in the best and most exact way possible. He mustn't try to find out more, because then there's the danger that he'll become his own director.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

I've made films about the middle classes because I know them best. Everyone talks about what he knows best.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

In *Blow-up* I used my head instinctively!

~Michelangelo Antonioni

The public buys "art" - but the word is drained of its meaning.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

We live in a society that compels us to go on using these concepts, and we no longer know what they mean.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

You can't go to an LSD or pot party unless you take it yourself. If I want to go, I must take drugs myself.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

Actors are always a little high at work. Acting is their drug. So when you put the brakes on, they're naturally a little disappointed.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

When you work on a character, you form in your mind an image of what he ought to look like. Then you go and find one who resembles him.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

I'm more or less skeptical about marriage, because of family ties, relations between children and parents - it's all so depressing.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

I'm not rich and maybe I'll never be rich. Money is useful - yes - but I don't worship it.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

Normally, however, I try to avoid repetitions of any shot.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

I am neither a sociologist nor a politician. All I can do is imagine for myself what the future will be like.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

Hollywood doesn't believe in the death penalty for anyone except people who get cable TV without paying for it. Hollywood is like being nowhere and talking to nobody about nothing.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

It's only human and natural that an actor should see the film in terms of his own part, but I, as a director, have to see the film as a whole. He must therefore collaborate selflessly, totally.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

Method actors are absolutely terrible. They want to direct themselves,

and it's a disaster.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

I forget about the relationship between myself and any actress when working with her.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

Sometimes actors' mistakes give me ideas I can use, because mistakes are always sincere, absolutely sincere.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

My films always leave me unsatisfied, since I've always worked under fairly disastrous conditions economically.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

I've always dreamed of getting to know the women of other countries better. When I was a boy, I remember, I used to get angry at the thought that I did not know German or American or Swedish women.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

I don't want what I am saying to sound like a prophecy or anything like an analysis of modern society .... these are only feelings I have, and I am the least speculative man on earth.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

Women are a finer filter of reality. They can sniff things.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

I never feel empty. I travel a lot and I think about other films.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

Everyone has understood me in his own way. But I would have to understand myself first in order to judge - and so far, I haven't.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

When I see a good film, it's like a whiplash. I run away, in order not to be influenced. Thus, the films I liked most are those I think least about.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

One of the problems of the future world will be the use of leisure time. How will it be filled up? Maybe drugs will be distributed free of charge by the government.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

It isn't easy to understand the lives of people different from your own.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

I've never had a method of working. I change according to circumstances; I don't employ any particular technique or style. I make films instinctively, more with my belly than with my brain.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

I believe in the autobiographical concept only to the degree that I am able to put onto film all that's passing through my head at the moment of shooting.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

I don't know whether I am ever bored. I never look at myself.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

In any case, the idea of giving "all" of reality is overly simple and absurd.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

I'll go on making films until I make one that pleases me from the first to the last frame. Then I'll quit.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

There are many ways of communicating. Some hold the theory that

new forms of communication between people can be obtained through hallucinogenic drugs.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

Another reason for switching to color is world television. In a few years, it will all be in color, and you can't compete against that with black-and-white films.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

There can be no censorship better than one's own conscience.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

I can't imagine love without a sexual charge.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

Life should be taken ironically; otherwise, it becomes a tragedy.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

Fitzgerald said a very interesting thing in his diary; that human life proceeds from the good to the less good - that is, it's always worse as you go on. That's true.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

Do you really think a man must be strong, masculine, dominating, and the woman frail, obedient and sensitive? This is a conventional idea. Reality is quite different.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

All I know is that we are loaded down with old and stale stuff - habits, customs, old attitudes already dead and gone.

~Michelangelo Antonioni

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