

Nicolas Winding Refn Quotes

*Thinking, People, Art, Film, World, Believe, Character, Creativity, Ideas, Play,
Giving, Powerful, Interesting, Children, Way, Neon, Girl, Important, War,
Cinema*

Like all art forms, film is a media as powerful as weapons of mass destruction; the only difference is that war destroys and film inspires.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

I don't believe that art makes people violent in any way. I don't. But I do believe art can show people how to be violent and that's much more dangerous in a way.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

I think that I am a pornographer, meaning that I make movies based on what excites me and what I would like to see.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

The artificial world that we create through images will essentially become real.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

Cinema is mass media, it is both overtly gross and exciting. It is our great mirror of society.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

Creativity is narcissism. Creativity is falling in love with one's self as you create. It's self-indulgent.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

In a way, art is a great way to release your love, fantasy, and desires. It's like a fetish. It's a comfortable way of excising a lot of your conscience.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

Look at the birth of anything; it's always more violent than anything you could ever imagine.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

We live in a beauty-obsessed culture, which on one hand is absolutely fabulous, but on the flip side, is also dangerously extreme.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

The idea of narcissism, essentially, is and will be accepted as a virtue.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

Understanding one's own power is more interesting than someone being given something powerful.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

The world needs change, change needs an activity. It has to be planted by a thought.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

You must understand that violence in a movie is only a tool. If it's used badly, it will be horrible. If it's used correctly, it can be very interesting. But, essentially, it's just a tool.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

I wanted to make a horror film about beauty.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

Reaction is what changes your understanding of the world.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

[The Neon Demon] was more my own fascination with beauty. It's my children's fascination beauty.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

I love films, I love movies, I love television, I love television series, I love the internet, I love anything that enhances images. But most of all, I love, love movies.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

I also believe on a practical level, if you're taking time away from people, besides entertaining them, I think it's important that there's something to react to.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

That's half of what we do our daily lives - we react to our surroundings. Of course, we have to make it entertaining, and we are entertainers.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

I always think once you have the lead protagonist, you cast around that character.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

Only *God Forgives* was very much a generation gap in a way. It was all the youth of the world that embraced it. I make films for young people. That's what I will continue to do.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

I love watching the superhero movies and I would love to make one.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

I love rock ballads, and I'm kind of in emotional turmoil, being ill and high, so I start to sing to the song, I turn it up and start to sing.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

I've been trying to get away from physical violence; it's too easy; it doesn't satisfy me artistically to work with it. Dramatic violence is much more interesting, but it's much more difficult.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

I think when you make a movie, one of your main focuses as a director is to inspire everyone else to give their best. Like manipulation.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

I think that experiencing through art is a wonderful way to expand the horizon and everything around it.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

For me, Amazon has stepped in and presented the future of entertainment. Obviously, the future of entertainment is going to be on the internet.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

Man's fear of sexuality is the basis of all horror from the male perspective.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

I don't have to go very far to see the power of beauty. Being desired, feeling desired is a very seductive aspect of our being.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

The future is not about what you do, it's about what you stand for.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

The fairy tale always takes place in worlds that are between, unidentifiable.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

I never desired to really go to Hollywood and make films, and purely because I want my entire control, which I'm used to having.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

Creativity is very self-indulgent.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

Abbey Lee was a very famous model and had great success. She was very open about the negative aspects of that industry.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

The more we become civilized, the more we simultaneously understand our need to be virtuous, and our need to understand our experiences on a subconscious level.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

I'm a very feminine man. I like feminine things. I don't go to strip clubs. I don't drink beer. I don't play sports.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

I'm a fetishist. I make films based on what I would like to see.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

Financially, it was very successful. Which is the most important thing. That is the only way you get to make another movie. It's very simple. The market will value you.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

I don't do drugs, and so music very much gets me going. When I do something, I think, "If it was a piece of music, what would it be?"

~Nicolas Winding Refn

I consider it a great honour that my movie Drive inspired so many wonderful artists to come together and create one ultra-cool glam experience.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

Doing your first film, it's very important that it's a commercial success, because that gives you a couple times to experiment until you have to hit the jackpot again.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

There's incredible effect in being either loved or hated, but knowing that, either way, you have penetrated the mind and have altered it; that is a very pleasurable feeling.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

Love comes from the strangest places.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

I had met Keanu [Reeves] a few times so it was a great way to reach out to him with an actual job offer. He very kindly agreed to be part of it and it was an amazing experience.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

I like the early comic book characters more than the new ones.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

I grew up in the '80s and John Hughes was the filmmaker making serious movies for teenagers.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

When we met, my agenda was "Get Elle Fanning." I believe Elle's was "Get the role." But we didn't know that.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

I've been lucky to have a beautiful wife and children. The idea that something so beautiful can be so horrific at the same time. Beauty is a complex thing.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

In a way "Drive" is probably the greatest superhero movie ever made.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

Everything we do is about the emotion of the characters. We believe the better the emotion, the better the movie.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

I think everybody's looking for religion to believe in. I think we all need

faith.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

I have not seen "Batman v Superman," unfortunately. It hasn't been on the plane, as I've been flying a lot.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

I just close my eyes and I fantasize what I would like to see.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

I sometimes play different kinds of music to see where the performers end up. I play one genre. Then something else when I do it again. It really helps.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

Personally I kept my feelings out of it and created a fantasy. That's the process of going through this world being beautiful.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

Narcissism as a virtue is very futuristic. Narcissism as a quality is where I think things are heading.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

Sometimes I just play the theme from Arthur. It reminds me of my childhood in New York and I just love it.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

The vibe, it's that excitement. New York, you just can't describe it. You get a similar thing from Paris and London, but it's not New York.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

I think that Danish people may be thought off as the happiest people, but honestly...I love America.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

I like doing the promotional work. It's part of the film's process. Cannes was very wonderful to premiere.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

Good and bad, what's good and bad? I don't know.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

The digital revolution is forever. They put importance on that option as well. With Amazon, you're getting the best of both worlds, with a whole new playing field.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

I remember To Live And Die In L.A. I saw that in the cinemas when I was young in the '80s. I remember the poster. It's a great poster.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

I can do my part of the storytelling. I can carry it. I can paint it. I can maneuver it. I can massage it. But if I don't have anything to work with, then there's nothing.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

I've done collaborations in all my movies, and I think it's part of what I enjoy about the process. This kind of intimacy that you create. Because it becomes very intimate.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

The conversations about a film are an example of success because then you know whatever you've done has resonated.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

I think that television has become really, really interesting, in terms of character development. You can have 13 hours to develop a character, as opposed to 25 minutes in a movie. That excites me.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

The act of creation can be an extreme violent experience.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

In "Drive," there's a heightened male edge. In "Only God Forgives," it was almost crawling back into the womb of the mother. And now with "The Neon Demon," being reborn as a 16-year-old girl.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

When you make something that everyone likes, it's very easy to say, "Well, I'll just repeat that." Because that was easy. I have a formula. But creatively, it's not very interesting.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

I certainly believe that creativity must be an experience. If I'm to steal time away from people, we should give them something to react to.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

I woke up one day and I realized I wasn't born beautiful, but my wife was, so I decided to make a horror film about it: what it would be like to be born beautiful.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

I think that's the struggle of our normality is that we have oppressed desires because of what is accepted and not accepted in society.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

You know the one I want to do? I want to make Batgirl.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

I can't make a film that I don't feel comfortable with.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

Sometimes you can play against type, or you can just repeat what they've already done. It can be an obstacle; it's a very fine line.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

I'm a fetish filmmaker, in that I don't know why I do what I do, I just like to see things. When I figure out what I would like to see, I will put it in a film.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

I don't drive because I failed eight times and never got my license.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

I believe shooting chronologically gives you a very fresh perspective and you're always aware of where you are in the development of the characters.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

If an actor or actress is recognizable, that changes our perception of them.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

I was in Hollywood. It's the mythology heart. It's where all the European films came in the '30s and '40s. The marriage between Europe and Hollywood has always been the best when it works.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

The thing with Ryan, you can look at him for hours. Very few actors have that. It's a gift.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

Jenna Malone was a very important piece of how the film [The Neon Demon] turned out.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

Elle Fanning was fifteen when we started [The Neon Demon]. She turned seventeen during the shoot. Four weeks before Cannes, she

turned eighteen. She had her prom at Cannes.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

I always say I have a Danish passport, but I am a New Yorker at heart.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

I feel Amazon is really bringing films into the future. So for me it was the best of both worlds.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

If the Wizard of Oz were real he would be in Hollywood.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

Ironically, even the fashion in New York or Paris or Milan or whatever, or music in Berlin, or art in, I don't know, Madrid - all these scenes come and go. Everything leads back to Hollywood.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

The minute you celebrate narcissism, which on one hand is very complex, it's very ridiculous. You have to love oneself with humor.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

The character requires so many elements. The only one who could fulfill that was this one person: Elle Fanning.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

But once you get down to reality, there's no one to play her and there's no movie. It would be ridiculous.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

Nowadays, teenagers are so fast and quick to see through any form of manipulation. Sitting down and just thinking of something is like watching really bad pornography.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

My initial idea was I wanted to make it a horror film, very much. At times I do enter that world.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

I think the idea was to make a horror film that became a science-fiction film with a lot of melodramatic tropes.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

I just think it was time [in THE Neon Demon]to do a film about women. But not just women, I wanted to do a movie about a teenage girl. It was a great counter to the masculinity of "Drive."

~Nicolas Winding Refn

There will always be a theatrical experience because there will always be cinemas no matter what. It's like there will always be theaters to have stage plays in.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

It was a very comfortable and personal relationship [Cliff Martinez].'The Neon Demon'is our third movie and the music has never been as important as for this movie.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

[Reanu Reeves] is a very imaginative actor. He can have this wonderful balance of humor and fear. He's got these skills to be entertaining but also quite terrifying.

~Nicolas Winding Refn

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