

# Paul Gauguin Quotes

*Art, Dream, People, Men, Thinking, Artist, Color, Beautiful, Soul, Painting, Two, World, Blue, Littles, Philosophy, Civilization, Life, Light, Photography, Powerful*

The cyclone ends. The sun returns; the lofty coconut trees lift up their plumes again; man does likewise. The great anguish is over; joy has returned; the sea smiles like a child.

~Paul Gauguin

I shut my eyes in order to see.

~Paul Gauguin

Color! What a deep and mysterious language, the language of dreams.

~Paul Gauguin

I have come to an unalterable decision - to go and live forever in Polynesia. Then I can end my days in peace and freedom, without thoughts of tomorrow and this eternal struggle against idiots.

~Paul Gauguin

Color which, like music, is a matter of vibrations, reaches what is most general and therefore most indefinable in nature: its inner power.

~Paul Gauguin

Art is either revolution or plagiarism

~Paul Gauguin

Oh yes! he loved yellow, this good Vincent, this painter from Holland - those glimmers of sunlight rekindled his soul, that abhorred the fog, that needed the warmth.

~Paul Gauguin

We never really know what stupidity is until we have experimented on ourselves.

~Paul Gauguin

Life is hardly more than a fraction of a second. Such a little time to prepare oneself for eternity!

~Paul Gauguin

Take care not to step on the foot of a learned idiot. His bite is incurable.

~Paul Gauguin

Stressing output is the key to improving productivity, while looking to increase activity can result in just the opposite.

~Paul Gauguin

My eyes close and uncomprehendingly see the dream in the infinite space that stretches away, elusive, before me.

~Paul Gauguin

Nature has mysterious infinities and imaginative power. It is always varying the productions it offers to us. The artist himself is one of nature's means.

~Paul Gauguin

I have tried to establish the right to dare everything.

~Paul Gauguin

I sit at my door, smoking a cigarette and sipping my absinthe, and I enjoy every day without a care in the world

~Paul Gauguin

What still concerns me the most is: am I on the right track, am I making progress, am I making mistakes in art?

~Paul Gauguin

Oh mysterious world of all light, thou hast made a light shine within me, and I have grown in admiration of thy antique beauty, which is the immemorial youth of nature.

~Paul Gauguin

Art = a mad search for individualism.

~Paul Gauguin

The history of modern art is also the history of the progressive loss of art's audience. Art has increasingly become the concern of the artist and the bafflement of the public.

~Paul Gauguin

Let everything about you breathe the calm and peace of the soul.

~Paul Gauguin

Life being what it is, one dreams of revenge.

~Paul Gauguin

Do not finish your work too much. An impression is not sufficiently durable for its first freshness to survive a belated search for infinite detail; in this way you let the lava grow cool.

~Paul Gauguin

Wherever I go I need a period of incubation so that I may learn the essence of nature, which never wishes to be understood or yield herself.

~Paul Gauguin

Do not copy nature. Art is an abstraction. Rather, bring your art forth by dreaming in front of her and think more of creation.

~Paul Gauguin

And here in my isolation I can grow stronger. Poetry seems to come of itself, without effort, and I need only let myself dream a little while painting to suggest it.

~Paul Gauguin

The flat sound of my wooden clogs on the cobblestones, deep, hollow

and powerful, is the note I seek in my painting.

~Paul Gauguin

A young man who is unable to commit a folly is already an old man.

~Paul Gauguin

Whatever may happen the sun will rise tomorrow as it rose to-day, beneficent and serene.

~Paul Gauguin

Today one can dare anything, and, furthermore, nobody is surprised.

~Paul Gauguin

It is useless to advise solitude for everyone; one must be strong enough to endure it and to work alone.

~Paul Gauguin

Do not copy nature too much. Art is an abstraction.

~Paul Gauguin

If you see a tree as blue, then make it blue.

~Paul Gauguin

In order to produce something new, you have to return to the original source, to the childhood of mankind.

~Paul Gauguin

Go on working, freely and furiously, you will make progress and sooner or later your worth will be recognised, if you have any.

~Paul Gauguin

One's state of mind is three-quarters of what counts, so it has to be carefully nurtured if you want to do something great and lasting.

~Paul Gauguin

Life has no meaning unless one lives it with a will, at least to the limit of one's will.

~Paul Gauguin

It is the eye of ignorance that assigns a fixed and unchangeable color to every object; beware of this stumbling block.

~Paul Gauguin

Civilization is what makes you sick.

~Paul Gauguin

The great artist is a formulation of the greatest intelligence: he is the recipient of sensations which are the most delicate and consequently the most invisible expressions of the brain.

~Paul Gauguin

The public wants to understand and learn in a single day, a single minute, what the artist has spent years learning.

~Paul Gauguin

A meter of green is greener than a centimeter.

~Paul Gauguin

Stay firmly in your path and dare; be wild two hours a day!

~Paul Gauguin

There is always a heavy demand for fresh mediocrity. In every generation the least cultivated taste has the largest appetite.

~Paul Gauguin

Out in the sun, some painters are lined up. The first is copying nature, the second is copying the first, the third is copying the second... You see the sequence.

~Paul Gauguin

Seek art and abstraction in nature by dreaming in the presence of it.

~Paul Gauguin

Poor artist! You gave away part of your soul when you painted the picture which you are now trying to dispose of.

~Paul Gauguin

Civilization is paralysis.

~Paul Gauguin

It is better to paint from memory, for thus your work will be your own.

~Paul Gauguin

Literary poetry in a painter is something special, and is neither illustration nor the translation of writing by form.

~Paul Gauguin

I plunged eagerly and passionately into the wilderness, as if in the hope of thus penetrating into the very heart of this Nature, powerful and maternal, there to blend with her living elements.

~Paul Gauguin

How do you see those tree?... They are yellow. Well then put down yellow. And that shadow is rather blue. So render it with pure ultramarine. Those red leaves? Use vermilion.

~Paul Gauguin

However depressed I may be I am not in the habit of giving up a project without having tried everything, even the 'impossible', to gain my end.

~Paul Gauguin

Sooner or later people will learn to recognize your worth

~Paul Gauguin

A bit of advice, don't copy nature too closely. Art is an abstraction; as you dream amid nature, extrapolate art from it, and concentrate on what you will create as a result.

~Paul Gauguin

The single most powerful tool for winning a negotiation is the ability to get up and walk away from the table without a deal

~Paul Gauguin

I am entering into the truth, into nature.

~Paul Gauguin

I am a great artist and I know it, it is because I am that I have been able to endure so much suffering.

~Paul Gauguin

I'd like to write the way I do my paintings, that is, as fantasy takes me, as the moon dictates.

~Paul Gauguin

Many excellent cooks are spoiled by going into the arts.

~Paul Gauguin

Without delay I began work, without hesitation and all of a fever.

~Paul Gauguin

Oh mysterious world... I have become better for having understood and having loved thy human soul - a flower which has ceased to bloom and whose fragrance no one henceforth will breathe.

~Paul Gauguin

Concentrate your strengths against your competitor's relative weaknesses.

~Paul Gauguin



It is well for young men to have a model, but let them draw the curtain over it while they are painting.

~Paul Gauguin

Having the certitude of a succession of days... equally free and beautiful, peace descends on me.

~Paul Gauguin

The landscape with its violent, pure colours dazzled and blinded me. I was always uncertain.

~Paul Gauguin

I was aware that on my skill as a painter would depend the physical and moral possession of the model.

~Paul Gauguin

Sometimes people accuse me of being incomprehensible only because they look for an explicative side to my pictures which is not there.

~Paul Gauguin

How to re-light the fire the very ashes of which are scattered?

~Paul Gauguin

There is no such thing as exaggerated art. I even believe that there is salvation only in extreme.

~Paul Gauguin

In Europe men and women have intercourse because they love each other. In the South Seas they love each other because they have had intercourse. Who is right?

~Paul Gauguin

Where do we come from? What are We? Where are we going?

~Paul Gauguin

Art requires philosophy, just as philosophy requires art. Otherwise, what would become of beauty?

~Paul Gauguin

The critics can say stupid things and we can enjoy them, if we have the legitimate feeling of superiority - the satisfaction of a duty accomplished.

~Paul Gauguin

Nothing so resembles a daub as a masterpiece.

~Paul Gauguin

Beautiful colors exist, though we do not realize it, and are glimpsed behind the veil that modesty has drawn over them.

~Paul Gauguin

The work of a man is the explanation of the man.

~Paul Gauguin

When the physical organism breaks up, the soul survives. It then takes on another body.

~Paul Gauguin

You may dream freely when you listen to music as well as when you look at painting. When you read a book you are the slave of the author's mind.

~Paul Gauguin

Life is merely a fraction of a second. An infinitely small amount of time to fulfill our desires, our dreams, our passions.

~Paul Gauguin

All the joys - animal and human - of a free life are mine. I have escaped everything that is artificial, conventional, customary.

~Paul Gauguin

Beware of luxury! Beware of acquiring the taste and need for it, under the pretext of providing for the morrow.

~Paul Gauguin

In art, all who have done something other than their predecessors have merited the epithet of revolutionary; and it is they alone who are masters.

~Paul Gauguin

Follow the masters! But why should one follow them? The only reason they are masters is that they didn't follow anybody!

~Paul Gauguin

In painting one must search rather for suggestion than for description, as is done in music.

~Paul Gauguin

I have always wanted a mistress who was fat, and I have never found one. To make a fool of me, they are always pregnant.

~Paul Gauguin

Lacking many of the essential implements, it irritated me to be reduced to impotence in the face of artistic projects to which I had passionately given myself.

~Paul Gauguin

Why did I hesitate to put all this glory of the sun on my canvas?

~Paul Gauguin

Soon I'll be old and I've done precious little in this world for lack of time. I am always afraid I'll become senile before I've finished what I've undertaken.

~Paul Gauguin

In art one is concerned with the condition of the spirit for three quarters of the time; one must therefore care for oneself if he wishes to make something great and lasting.

~Paul Gauguin

It was so simple to paint things as I saw them; to put without special calculation a red close to a blue.

~Paul Gauguin

Art is either plagiarism or revolution.

~Paul Gauguin

Perhaps I have no talent, but all vanity aside - I do not believe that anyone makes an artistic attempt, no matter how small, without having a little - or there are many fools.

~Paul Gauguin

Do you know what will soon be the ultimate in truth?

~Paul Gauguin

A great sentiment can be rendered immediately. Dream on it and look for the simplest form in which you can express it.

~Paul Gauguin

Silence! I am learning to know the silence of a Tahitian night.

~Paul Gauguin

A critic in my house sees some paintings. Greatly perturbed, he asks for my drawings. My drawings? Never! They are my letters, my secrets.

~Paul Gauguin

I made a promise to keep a watch over myself, to remain master of myself, so that I might become a sure observer.

~Paul Gauguin

Look closely at the Japanese; they draw admirably and yet in them you will see life outdoors and in the sun without shadows.

~Paul Gauguin

A critic is someone who meddles with something that is none of his business.

~Paul Gauguin

With practice the craft will come almost of itself, in spite of you and all the more easily if you think of something besides technique.

~Paul Gauguin

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