

Philip Guston Quotes

*Painting, Art, Thinking, Artist, Moving, Magic, Hands, Needs, Mysterious, Heart,
Mind, Canvas, Trying, Color, Desire, Paint, Want, Process, Men, Mean*

Painting is an illusion, a piece of magic, so what you see is not what you see.

~Philip Guston

Frustration is one of the great things in art. Satisfaction is nothing.

~Philip Guston

There's some mysterious process at work here, which I don't even want to understand.

~Philip Guston

Usually I am on a work for a long stretch, until a moment arrives when the air of the arbitrary vanishes, and the paint falls into positions that feel destined.

~Philip Guston

We are image-makers and image-ridden... We work until we vanish.

~Philip Guston

To paint is a possessing rather than a picturing.

~Philip Guston

Painting seems like some kind of peculiar miracle that I need to have again and again.

~Philip Guston

Look at any inspired painting. It's like a gong sounding; it puts you in a state of reverberation.

~Philip Guston

To paint is always to start at the beginning again, yet being unable to avoid the familiar arguments about what you see yourself painting.

~Philip Guston

I am a night painter, so when I come into the studio the next morning the delirium is over.

~Philip Guston

That's what I mean by something grips in a canvas. The moment that happens you are then sucked into the whole thing. Like some kind of rhythm.

~Philip Guston

It is possible to make a living thing, not a diagram of what I have been thinking: to posit with paint something living, something that changes each day.

~Philip Guston

Do I really believe that? I make a mark, a few strokes, I argue with myself, not do I like or not, but is it true or not? Is that what I mean, is that what I want?

~Philip Guston

Probably the most potent desire for a painter, an image-maker, is to see it. To see what the mind can think and imagine, to realize it for oneself, through oneself, as concretely as possible.

~Philip Guston

I go to the studio everyday because one day I may go and the Angel will be there. What if I don't go and the Angel comes?

~Philip Guston

More than a process, painting is being possessed.

~Philip Guston

I'm not interested in painting; I'm not interested in making a picture. Then what the hell am I interested in? I must be interested in this process.

~Philip Guston

The canvas you are working on modifies the previous ones in an unending, baffling chain which never seems to finish. What sympathy is demanded of the viewer? He is asked to 'see' the future links.

~Philip Guston

There is something mysterious in this work that I do not ever what to discover.

~Philip Guston

I should like to paint like an man who has never seen a painting, but this man -myself - lives in a museum.

~Philip Guston

In my experience a painting is not made with colors and paint at all. I don't know what a painting is; who knows what sets off even the desire to paint?

~Philip Guston

If the artist starts evaluating himself, it's an enormous block, isn't it?

~Philip Guston

Painting seems like impossibility, with only a sign now and then of its own light.

~Philip Guston

All these troubles revolve around the irritable mutual dependence of life and art - with their need and contempt for one another. Of necessity, to create is a temporary state and cannot be possessed.

~Philip Guston

The canvas is a court where the artist is prosecutor, defendant, jury and judge. Art without a trial disappears at a glance.

~Philip Guston

Related Links:

- [Painting Quotes](#)
- [Art Quotes](#)
- [Thinking Quotes](#)
- [Artist Quotes](#)
- [Moving Quotes](#)
- [Magic Quotes](#)
- [Hands Quotes](#)
- [Needs Quotes](#)
- [Mysterious Quotes](#)
- [Heart Quotes](#)
- [Mind Quotes](#)
- [Canvas Quotes](#)
- [Trying Quotes](#)
- [Color Quotes](#)
- [Desire Quotes](#)
- [Paint Quotes](#)
- [Want Quotes](#)
- [Process Quotes](#)
- [Men Quotes](#)
- [Mean Quotes](#)