

# Richard Diebenkorn

## Quotes

*Painting, Want, Thinking, Mean, Struggle, Feelings, Art, Meaningful, Moving, Use, Important, Father, Ability, Space, Moments, Technique, Color, Artifice, Successful, Landscape*

I don't go into the studio with the idea of 'saying' something. What I do is face the blank canvas and put a few arbitrary marks on it that start me on some sort of dialogue.

~Richard Diebenkorn

Attempt what is not certain. Certainty may or may not come later. It may then be a valuable delusion.

~Richard Diebenkorn

All paintings start out of a mood, out of a relationship with things or people, out of a complete visual impression

~Richard Diebenkorn

Mistakes can't be erased, but they move you from your present position.

~Richard Diebenkorn

In a successful painting everything is integral - all the parts belong to the whole. If you remove an aspect or element you are removing its wholeness.

~Richard Diebenkorn

One wants to see the artifice of the thing as well as the subject.

~Richard Diebenkorn

If you get an image try to destroy it.

~Richard Diebenkorn

I would like the colors, their shapes and positions to be arrived at in response to and dictated by the condition of the total space at the time they are considered.

~Richard Diebenkorn

My freedom will be so much the greater and more meaningful, the more

narrowly I limit my field of action and the more I surround myself with obstacles.

~Richard Diebenkorn

I came to mistrust my desire to explode the picture and supercharge it in some way - what is more important is a feeling of strength in reserve - tension beneath calm.

~Richard Diebenkorn

I can never accomplish what I want - only what I would have wanted had I thought of it beforehand.

~Richard Diebenkorn

Don't be a Pollyanna!

~Richard Diebenkorn

Somehow don't be bored, but if you must, use it in action. Use its destructive potential.

~Richard Diebenkorn

I keep plastering it until it comes around to what I want, in terms of all I know and think about painting now, as well as in terms of the initial observation.

~Richard Diebenkorn

I have found in my still-life work that I seem to be able to tell what objects are important to me by what tends to stay in the painting as it develops.

~Richard Diebenkorn

My father didn't think being an artist was a respectable or worthy goal for a man. He hoped I would see my way to more serious work and would find myself turning towards medicine, law, or business.

~Richard Diebenkorn

Use and respond to the initial fresh qualities but consider them absolutely expendable.

~Richard Diebenkorn

I want painting to be difficult to do.

~Richard Diebenkorn

Do search, but in order to find other than what is searched for.

~Richard Diebenkorn

My freedom consists in my moving about within the narrow frame that I have assigned myself for each one of my undertakings.

~Richard Diebenkorn

Don't 'discover' a subject of any kind.

~Richard Diebenkorn

I trust the symbol that is arrived at in the making of the painting. Meaningful symbols aren't invented as such, they are made or discovered as symbol later.

~Richard Diebenkorn

And I can just see that sometimes the technique is blasting powder rather than steady struggle.

~Richard Diebenkorn

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