

Robert Barry

Quotes

*Art, Thinking, Ideas, People, Trying, Artist, Space, Style, Drawing, Important,
Years, Mind, Color, Mean, Pieces, Way, Wall, Giving, Want, Guy*

I like contrasting between black and white and color.

~Robert Barry

I know where the mistakes are. Nothing is perfect and I understand that.

~Robert Barry

I try not to manipulate reality... What will happen, will happen. Let things be themselves.

~Robert Barry

I like working late at night and then going into the house and sitting down and watching a movie and then going to sleep.

~Robert Barry

I like the work hanging free in the frame. I don't like too much frame around it but I like a little breathing space around the piece.

~Robert Barry

I had always worked. I always had part-time jobs.

~Robert Barry

I relied mainly on other artists, who I think are smarter than critics, any critics or curators or anybody like that. They really know.

~Robert Barry

You can't have silence on the radio; people will turn away from the station.

~Robert Barry

Words are objects of a color and a size and a form and a shape.

~Robert Barry

And after a while, you just pare things down more and more and more,

until you get to certain basic things which just - basic ideas which just seem to work for you over and over again.

~Robert Barry

If I'm reading something and a word pops up, or I just catch it, I try to mark it off and then, later, write it down on a piece of paper and add it to my list.

~Robert Barry

I always took photographs. I photographed a lot of trees, by the way, which is another image I used often in my work, the tree image.

~Robert Barry

The idea of words and photos was something that appealed to me.

~Robert Barry

A word refers to something in the real world and so, in a way, does a photo. It's not the thing itself, but it's a kind of suggestion of where you might look for that thing.

~Robert Barry

I always had a fairly decent income, coming in just from the art.

~Robert Barry

You can't make somebody care about what you're doing. Either they get it, either there's that connection - or they don't.

~Robert Barry

Even though you're reading something, it's as though that person who wrote it is speaking to you. It's a form of conversation, really.

~Robert Barry

I do like certain kinds of frames for work. That's important.

~Robert Barry

I'm fortunate in one respect; that I don't have a lot of work in my studio. Most of it's out, gone; either sold or in galleries. I work with a lot of galleries.

~Robert Barry

I am an artist who works very well under pressure, in fact. I like to have deadlines.

~Robert Barry

I never ever approached a dealer. I have always been approached by dealers or curators or whatever.

~Robert Barry

If somebody gives me a chance to do something, I am going to use that space, that time, that light, that whatever it is and try and work with it.

~Robert Barry

I am a very lucky artist in the sense that I have had all my life a lot of opportunities to do what I want to do.

~Robert Barry

I just try things and whether people like it or if I find it successful or not, I just do it.

~Robert Barry

Words have very potent meanings and people read them and they react to them personally. They are very suggestive in terms of your life and things like that.

~Robert Barry

I wanted my style to be very recognizable.

~Robert Barry

Any artwork is part of something larger, grander and, you know, the

situation that it's in is very important.

~Robert Barry

One thing you have to develop as an artist is a confidence in what you're doing and that you're right about it.

~Robert Barry

I didn't make videos for a long time because I hated the look of TV sets.

~Robert Barry

I work sometimes with dealers and sometimes people just come to me. A lot of the commissions, they just know me. They have seen something and they just approach me.

~Robert Barry

I have a lot of ideas for art. And it is really - I don't really have time to do them all.

~Robert Barry

I never stop thinking about what I have to do. Let's put it that way. The only thing that takes me out of that is probably a film. I watch a lot of movies.

~Robert Barry

Whatever came out came out. That was it. That's what you live with. If you don't like it, that's your problem.

~Robert Barry

My videos rarely run longer than 20 minutes. They're made for private viewing in your home or specifically either that or for a gallery situation where you sit and look.

~Robert Barry

I am very easy. I like to have my work out. I am not restrictive about any of that. It is the collectors that are possessive, not me, not me.

~Robert Barry

I work with deadlines. It is terrible to be an artist where you are just producing work and nobody gives a damn. Nobody wants to show it.

~Robert Barry

I'm used to being the background. I'm used to having work that only lasts for a little while. I'm used to being - working in the real world, where real things are.

~Robert Barry

I made films from the - when I was a little kid, my father bought me a movie camera. I just wanted to. I don't know how. You just learn, you just do it. You just do it.

~Robert Barry

I was a filmmaker. I made movies. I made films. And I always took photos and made films, always from the beginning.

~Robert Barry

I really wasn't about to get a Ph.D. in art history, you know, which you'd absolutely needed. And that was not something I wanted. And I loved art history, but not that way.

~Robert Barry

I think I feel much more at home in studio.

~Robert Barry

I was always - I was a movie nut. I lived in the movies, really.

~Robert Barry

By being critical, you also develop your own style of what you like, what

direction you want to move.

~Robert Barry

So I never had trouble getting work or working or doing - I always worked. I worked when I went to college. I worked after school.

~Robert Barry

I was never that big a rock-and-roll, rock guy. I really preferred jazz, you know, that kind of thing.

~Robert Barry

I was also a good writer, by the way. My, you know, my English teacher and writing teacher loved my writing. You know, I wrote short stories and things like that. And they liked them very much.

~Robert Barry

I think my parents - my parents were very hands-off, quite liberal in terms of their - they really - they did encourage me, but they never really pushed me into anything, really.

~Robert Barry

I have to say, I'm not someone who's really big into my family history - never really was very curious about it. The only thing I know about it is what I picked up from my aunts and parents.

~Robert Barry

How does any idea come to your mind? I don't know.

~Robert Barry

If you want to know about what's good in art, you should talk to an artist.

~Robert Barry

I always thought there was a - even in the most, quote, "conceptual

art," there is always a physical aspect to it. I never knew what the term meant.

~Robert Barry

And when you see artists like Donald Judd and so forth being referred to as conceptual, what the hell does that mean? It's a totally meaningless term.

~Robert Barry

You can't just suddenly change gears and reverse yourself or go to the left or the right because there is no left or right. There's always a certain direction that you're moving in.

~Robert Barry

I didn't like anti-Vietnam War art. I didn't like feminist art. I thought it was heavy-handed and stupid - as art.

~Robert Barry

But artistically, my art I kept very separate from my political beliefs, deliberately and very, very rarely would I allow that kind of thing into it.

~Robert Barry

I certainly don't believe that people can read other people's minds.

~Robert Barry

I liked the idea of the words floating in space and the space behind it moving all the time, ever changing.

~Robert Barry

I don't have a dream project. I don't really think in those terms, to tell you the truth.

~Robert Barry

And we live in a kind of realm of language and words and so forth. So

we can sort of relate to them. They don't exist without us. We create words.

~Robert Barry

I like challenge. I like to be put into a situation which I haven't done before. Something new presents itself and I see if I can somehow finagle it into making a work of art out of it.

~Robert Barry

Normally my head is always filled with art ideas and things that I have to do, deadlines that I have to meet.

~Robert Barry

I shoot a lot of video, first of all, whatever I think is interesting, just my travels; hard to say why. If something looks good, I take a picture or try to shoot it.

~Robert Barry

I don't really use still photography very much anymore except to document my work.

~Robert Barry

Art was something that I was really interested in, probably more so than writing or anything else.

~Robert Barry

I may have a lot of political opinions but it doesn't necessarily come into my work. I keep the two worlds separate.

~Robert Barry

The space between things is important to me. The projections, that darkness between the words or the images is very important.

~Robert Barry

Developing your own style became something very interesting, very important to me.

~Robert Barry

I'm always looking for relations between my work and the old masters.

~Robert Barry

I really kind of liked the fluidity and not really being tied down. I saw the kind of people that were tenured and what happened to them there and I thought it was kind of death, really.

~Robert Barry

I'm not a person - and my wife also - we don't really go to the beach or anything like that. We go to cities.

~Robert Barry

The first place I try to go when I have free time is the museums. I'm a big museum person.

~Robert Barry

I'm my own worst critic. I mean, I know what's wrong with everything that I've done.

~Robert Barry

And the mind actually does generate electrical currents - very weak ones and not necessarily ones that can be picked up by anyone else.

~Robert Barry

You can never really predict how people are going to react, what they're going to think about, whether they care.

~Robert Barry

I was good at art - always good at art.

~Robert Barry

You know, there are some people who just don't - that cannot get comfortable behind the wheel of a car and always sort of think they're going to kill somebody.

~Robert Barry

Agnes Martin is a big influence in my work actually, when I first saw her, these fine grids.

~Robert Barry

I make my own surprises and I'm always surprised to see what I do, to see it when it's finished and the biggest challenge is once I finish it, it's not a failure. It's not a flop.

~Robert Barry

I've always said my biggest influence is my, just, the last work I did, the last piece I made.

~Robert Barry

Everybody is always satisfied with what I do.

~Robert Barry

People ask me why I use words and the reason, of course, is that words talk to you. I mean, they're something that are generated inside of you and that you can relate to you.

~Robert Barry

I think you say the word in your mind anyway, you know. When you look at a word, you say it.

~Robert Barry

The big thing is I try not to repeat.

~Robert Barry

I have been in competitions for commissions. I've won most and lost

some. Mostly, I've won.

~Robert Barry

I had always taken photos - always, always taken photos, made movies.

~Robert Barry

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