

Robert Genn

Quotes

*Art, Artist, Thinking, Needs, May, People, Jobs, Self, Composition, Imagination,
Hands, Winning, Quality, Creative, Feelings, Titles, Curiosity, Keys, Trying,
Drawing*

Our bodies, apart from their brilliant role as drawing exercises, are the temples of our being. Like the bodies of all fauna, they deserve both our study and our appreciation.

~Robert Genn

The problem with University degrees, particularly the more spectacular ones, is that people who possess them can fall into the trap of thinking people who don't have them don't know anything.

~Robert Genn

The centipede has rhythm and flow in its hundred legs precisely because it does not have to think about it. Consider this the next time you move the instruments of your art.

~Robert Genn

The job of art is to turn time into things.

~Robert Genn

A drawing a day keeps the cobwebs away.

~Robert Genn

One of the ways to learn is to know when you're making failures.

~Robert Genn

The brilliance of art as a collectible is that it has a way of reaching out on an emotional level. It touches on mystery, even spirituality.

~Robert Genn

Keep busy while you are waiting for something to happen.

~Robert Genn

Perhaps we might, within the anatomy of our imaginations, think once more of the naked body as a vessel of grace, taste and wonder. In the spotted history of art, stranger things have happened.

~Robert Genn

Art is a form of love. Art is the ultimate gift. Art heals life.

~Robert Genn

The only bad studio is the unused one.

~Robert Genn

When you serve your passions, proficiency gradually takes over and becomes habitual.

~Robert Genn

Know that to begin is often better than to think.

~Robert Genn

One compositional element suggests and asks for another. This is what makes the activity interesting.

~Robert Genn

Inspiration comes from doing.

~Robert Genn

Never forget that the nurturing and preservation of your own muse is job one. Lose it and you may be losing a great deal.

~Robert Genn

We have been mysteriously gifted this amazing life. Let us not complain.

~Robert Genn

While obsessive behavior may be an antisocial plague to societies and communities at large, it's total moxie when lone practitioners catch it.

~Robert Genn

Passion is the force that springs an artist from the needling cushion of depression.

~Robert Genn

I do know, for most of us, the very best of times are when you're in your own space sweating, trying to squeeze quality out of imperfect capabilities.

~Robert Genn

Pushing yourself to extremes blows out the cobwebs of trusted habit. It shakes up what you know to be reliably safe and substitutes the miracle of insecurity.

~Robert Genn

Visual tonics such as 'timed creativity' need to be introduced to refresh and refurbish the muse.

~Robert Genn

Priests are often well-meaning people who haven't yet looked too thoroughly into comparative religion.

~Robert Genn

Quality is always in style.

~Robert Genn

Novelty is vital to the stimulation of life... New neural paths are sparked by caving in to notions.

~Robert Genn

Contrary to popular belief, all evolving artists are in a full time battle with mediocrity.

~Robert Genn

With repetition, the alternate approaches become clear, options open.

~Robert Genn

A curiosity prompt heightens the senses and hones compositional ability.

~Robert Genn

Art, because it's so easy to do, and yet so difficult to do well, encourages humility in the human soul.

~Robert Genn

No one is going to hand you an organizational chart. You have to hand it to yourself.

~Robert Genn

For all of us, self-briefing before going out or starting a project sharpens artistic wit.

~Robert Genn

Sentimental titles are the last bastion of scoundrels, and can add significant barf to an already barfy work.

~Robert Genn

God may work in light, but we mortals work in pigment.

~Robert Genn

Mountains in all their moods are symbols of something greater, something worth aspiring to. Mountains are powerful, dangerous, beautiful, noble and mysterious. Mountains get respect.

~Robert Genn

To float like a cloud you have to go to the trouble of becoming one.

~Robert Genn

The short-goal habit is key to larger success and is at the root of human

greatness. Life is think and do, think and do, think and do. Small steps can be greater than great leaps.

~Robert Genn

Drawing is still the bottom line.

~Robert Genn

We know the human mind is programmed to glaze over when bored. Conversely, the mind is more alert in the presence of novelty. Our muse needs to stay seductive to keep our hands doing the right things.

~Robert Genn

It's better to have a small diamond than a large piece of glass.

~Robert Genn

We are not born focusing. It's an acquired skill that requires initial effort and constant upgrading.

~Robert Genn

Well considered abandonment is a trusted teacher.

~Robert Genn

By thinking you are cleverer and more talented than your buddies, many a career has been blotted.

~Robert Genn

Paintings, like tombstones, will last a good five hundred years, well into twenty or thirty generations.

~Robert Genn

Exploit a subject or a theme to its greatest potential by bringing all possible reference to bear - then put aside the reference and create again using the potential of your unfettered imagination.

~Robert Genn

This evening, while signing my name on a painting, I was thinking I might stop signing my cheques.

~Robert Genn

Risk in art is experimentation. There is no sorrow in self-driven experimentation.

~Robert Genn

My app is the same juicy paint used by Vincent Van Gogh; my screen is the woven canvas of Titian. Painting by hand, I've come to figure, is a certain kind of love.

~Robert Genn

Now familiar with my own particular voice and accent, my Dragon app prints out exactly what I speak into my iPad. Twenty years ago this miracle would be unthinkable.

~Robert Genn

I'm a believer in moderation in all things, including moderation.

~Robert Genn

Artists with serious aspirations need to be left alone to follow the course of their own imagination.

~Robert Genn

'Starving artist' is acceptable at age 20, suspect at age 40, and problematical at age 60.

~Robert Genn

Your easel is the nuclear sun of an uncommon universe.

~Robert Genn

An abstract title suggests another value to the subject, perhaps an artistic quality that sets the viewers' sensitivities into action.

~Robert Genn

In art, everyone who plays wins.

~Robert Genn

Your muse is amused and willed to further renewal during the process of mindless grabbing of reference material or errant imaginings.

~Robert Genn

Art thrives on a difference of opinion. My treasure is your junk, sort of thing. Life would be dull if we all agreed.

~Robert Genn

When shucked and released from its edges, the windowless subject stands alone as its own thing.

~Robert Genn

Silent guns have virtue.

~Robert Genn

With materialization in play you have magic in your fingers and you become the wizard.

~Robert Genn

Artist, gain knowledge, but know that the greatest guru of all is the guru within.

~Robert Genn

Learning to focus and pay attention, if only for a short time, has been identified as a primary key to the development of human effectiveness.

~Robert Genn

In life and art it's better to be an enthusiastic amateur than a jaded professional.

~Robert Genn

Watch the greater image materialize. You need that thing over there to tell you what to do about that thing over here.

~Robert Genn

Fact is, perfection is boring.

~Robert Genn

Sometimes you can be lucky enough to establish a working relationship with another artist who takes away the loneliness, particularly in travel and outdoor work.

~Robert Genn

True muses stay dreams forever unless artists connect them to exploratory work.

~Robert Genn

Incompetence, in my books, is the failure of the critical faculties to interfere constructively with the natural flow.

~Robert Genn

The guy may be totally motivated, connected and inspired, but if he doesn't know how to do it, he's not the guy to take out your appendix.

~Robert Genn

Our currency is what we are able to make.

~Robert Genn

As self-governing entities, artists have a profound interest in change. Embracing change, we embrace growth and we embrace our future.

~Robert Genn

We are trying to evoke and reinforce meanings from the spaces we

cover and the times we're given. Short or long this becomes our purpose. What we artists do is important stuff.

~Robert Genn

There is no progress without product.

~Robert Genn

With cropping, a new integrity appears and winning abstractions flutter up like butterflies. You can afford to be critical, discriminating, innocent, open-minded, charmed, beguiled or bamboozled.

~Robert Genn

When you sit down to paint or draw, you form yourself into a posture of praise

~Robert Genn

For a lot of us drawing is a tyranny which impedes freshness and spontaneity.

~Robert Genn

The head governs, the heart assists, the body acts.

~Robert Genn

Landscape painting tends to fall under more academic controls. I must say I often like working within these controls. It gives me the feeling that I'm taking part in a noble tradition.

~Robert Genn

The overly-verbal artist is led by his understanding of things--rather than by direct observation of things as they are.

~Robert Genn

I suppose what you're doing as a painter is making a record of your trip through life. I can't think of any job that is quite as satisfactory as doing

a painting.

~Robert Genn

As every artist who has used the method knows - photography's a loyal slave and a tyrannical master.

~Robert Genn

In the companionship of art we are all of a time. Early or late we are to be shared.

~Robert Genn

Factual titling satisfies and is pure by its lack of bamboozlement.

~Robert Genn

It is necessary to put yourself out for rejection, and accept that you will be rejected.

~Robert Genn

Once as I sat painting, I became aware of a man's face hovering near me, moving closer and closer to the panel I was working on. When he spoke he said, 'That is a fantastic brush!'

~Robert Genn

As we grow older, we realize just how limiting were our earlier conceptions. Art is something else. Art is fluid, transmutable, open-ended, never complete, and never perfect. Art is an event.

~Robert Genn

Many of us knuckle-dragging brush-painters think that 'behind the times' is part of our job description. Why deny ourselves the authentic journey of a time-honoured form?

~Robert Genn

Sometimes... we suffer from the tyranny of comparison. Contests,

competitions, thrive on it. Who cares?

~Robert Genn

Objects are held by the backgrounds that are cut into them.

~Robert Genn

By stealthily teaching dependence, photography can turn out to be dangerous.

~Robert Genn

Curiosity allows your unique "owned processes" to draw you toward creative conclusions.

~Robert Genn

Evolved creators are just as curious about their failures as they are of their successes.

~Robert Genn

Painters paint, and history continues to make fools of curators.

~Robert Genn

Critics are the products of their own times and biases and what they have to say about works of art is as transient and insubstantial as fashion.

~Robert Genn

Artists should be aware that petty stroking could be the source of arrested productivity. An artist's job includes the avoidance of premature closure by the begged or gratuitous approval of others.

~Robert Genn

We artists stick ourselves out. This in itself deserves respect.

~Robert Genn

Creativity is dynamic, it asserts life, frees the human spirit, conquers mental lassitude and illness, and makes real the outrageous potential of the universal imagination.

~Robert Genn

Flat, uninteresting parts of paintings are, in fact, a ruse to get the viewer to see what needs to be seen.

~Robert Genn

An opening and a receptiveness to design and pattern for its own sake seems to free the painting hand.

~Robert Genn

I've come to realize that companionship and mild competition can help build quality and lay the ground for excellence.

~Robert Genn

A method of achieving wild enthusiasm is to act wildly enthusiastic. Often, a growing and beautiful love-affair develops quite automatically.

~Robert Genn

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