

Robert Hughes

Quotes

Art, America, Doe, Running, Artist, Motivational, Football, Thinking, Moving, Soccer, Loss, Culture, Modernism, Reality, Dream, Australia, Political, Past, Mean, Doubt

The greater the artist, the greater the doubt; perfect confidence is granted to the less talented as a consolation prize.

~Robert Hughes

Landscape is to American painting what sex and psychoanalysis are to the American novel.

~Robert Hughes

A determined soul will do more with a rusty monkey wrench than a loafer will accomplish with all the tools in a machine shop.

~Robert Hughes

The greater the artist, the greater the doubt.

~Robert Hughes

Confidence is the prize given to the mediocre

~Robert Hughes

A Gustave Courbet portrait of a trout has more death in it than Rubens could get in a whole Crucifixion.

~Robert Hughes

Why wait for a call when you have a command?

~Robert Hughes

One gets tired of the role critics are supposed to have in this culture: It's like being the piano player in a whorehouse; you don't have any control over the action going on upstairs.

~Robert Hughes

Popular in our time, unpopular in his. So runs the stereotype of rejected genius.

~Robert Hughes

It is the nature of carnivores to get power and then, having disposed of their enemies, to deploy the emollient powers of Great Art to make themselves look like herbivores.

~Robert Hughes

Political stress is always apt to shrink the private arena and attach it on to the public

~Robert Hughes

Christmas began in the heart of God. It is complete only when it reaches the heart of man. Why wait for a call when you have a command?

~Robert Hughes

Nothing they design ever gets in the way of a work of art

~Robert Hughes

Indeed, the idea that doubt can be heroic, if it is locked into a structure as grand as that of the paintings of Cezanne's old age, is one of the keys to our century. A touchstone of modernity itself.

~Robert Hughes

There is virtue in virtuosity, especially today, when it protects us from the tedious spectacle of ineptitude.

~Robert Hughes

The new job of art is to sit on the wall and get more expensive.

~Robert Hughes

Art grows out of modes of perception that make you feel and think...that hooks on to something deep-running in our natures.

~Robert Hughes

In art there is no progress, only fluctuations of intensity.

~Robert Hughes

An ideal museum show would be a mating of *Brideshead Revisited* with *House & Garden*, provoking intense and pleasurable nostalgia for a past that none of its audience has had.

~Robert Hughes

Modernism is the protein of our cultural imagination.

~Robert Hughes

Why should we expect modernist taste to be any smarter than premodernist or postmodernist?

~Robert Hughes

The hallmark of the minor artist is to be obsessed with style as an end in itself.

~Robert Hughes

We want to create a sort of linguistic Lourdes, where evil and misfortune are dispelled by a dip in the waters of euphemism

~Robert Hughes

There's no geist like the Zeitgeist.

~Robert Hughes

We have entered a period of intolerance which combines, as it sometimes does in America, with a sugary taste for euphemism.

~Robert Hughes

If you want to be successful in the gym, in the classroom, in college or when you get out and go into the world of work, that is going to be determined by how hard you are willing to work.

~Robert Hughes

What does one prefer? An art that struggles to change the social contract, but fails? Or one that seeks to please and amuse, and succeeds?

~Robert Hughes

I have never been against new art as such; some of it is good, much is crap, most is somewhere in between.

~Robert Hughes

We've got a recipe for disaster. It's huge -- this combination of body image issues and the drug's weight loss appeal.

~Robert Hughes

It was the basilica of gossip, the Vatican of inside dope.

~Robert Hughes

Works of art... do not force meanings on their audience; meaning emerges, adds up, unfolds from their imagined centres... takes one through the process of discovering meaning.

~Robert Hughes

What strip mining is to nature the art market has become to culture.

~Robert Hughes

Fishing largely consists of not catching fish; failure is as much a part of the sport as knee injuries are of football.

~Robert Hughes

It is an oldish question, but not perhaps a very interesting one, whether cooking is an art or not.

~Robert Hughes

America is a construction of mind, not of race or inherited class or ancestral territory.

~Robert Hughes

But the existence of a cult does not mean that images appropriate to it automatically follow.

~Robert Hughes

It was a secular cathedral, dedicated to the rites of travel.

~Robert Hughes

On Platini's presidential watch... he has to balance all the leagues, all the dreams and needs of hundreds of clubs across his continent.

~Robert Hughes

The desire to be primitive was very much a function of fin-de-si cle imperialism; it appealed to strong egos and domineering minds.

~Robert Hughes

In America, nostalgia for things is apt to set in before they go.

~Robert Hughes

One thing is sure: the Sagrada Familia is the first Catholic temple whose bacon was ever saved by Shinto tourism. Not even Gaudi, who believed in miracles, could have foreseen that.

~Robert Hughes

No art goes unmediated by other art.

~Robert Hughes

Transportation made sublimation literal. It conveyed evil to another world.

~Robert Hughes

Now that rates are moving up, we're seeing more aggressive offerings from banks.

~Robert Hughes

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