

Robert Rauschenberg

Quotes

*Thinking, Art, Painting, Ideas, Want, Mean, Artist, World, Color, Empty, People,
Way, Canvas, Reading, Trying, Years, Looks, Taken, Imagination, Sorry*

There is no reason not to consider the world as one gigantic painting.

~Robert Rauschenberg

You begin with the possibilities of the material.

~Robert Rauschenberg

I don't really trust ideas - especially good ones... Rather, I put my trust in the materials that confront me, because they put me in touch with the unknown.

~Robert Rauschenberg

The only thing that I could get with chance, and I never was able to use it, was that I would end up with something quite geometric or the spirit that I was interested in, indulging in, was gone.

~Robert Rauschenberg

It is neither Art for Art, nor Art against Art. I am for Art, but for Art that has nothing to do with Art. Art has everything to do with life, but it has nothing to do with Art.

~Robert Rauschenberg

I've not been cursed with talent, which could be a great inhibitor.

~Robert Rauschenberg

An empty canvas is full.

~Robert Rauschenberg

The artist's job is to be a witness to his time in history.

~Robert Rauschenberg

I don't think of myself as making art. I do what I do because I want to, because painting is the best way I've found to get along with myself.

~Robert Rauschenberg

Even at this late date, I go into my studio, and I think 'Is this going to be it? Is it the end?' You see, nearly everything terrorizes me. When an artist loses that terror, he's through.

~Robert Rauschenberg

I don't want a picture to look like something it isn't. I want it to look like something it is.

~Robert Rauschenberg

It is impossible to have progress without conscience

~Robert Rauschenberg

It's when you've found out how to do certain things, that it's time to stop doing them, because what's missing is that you're not including the risk.

~Robert Rauschenberg

Art is a means to function thoroughly and passionately in a world that has a lot more to it than paint.

~Robert Rauschenberg

For me there is no difference between art and life.

~Robert Rauschenberg

I want my paintings to look like what's going on outside my window rather than what's inside my studio.

~Robert Rauschenberg

You can't make either life or art, you have to work in the hole in between, which is undefined. That's what makes the adventure of painting.

~Robert Rauschenberg

My art is about paying attention - about the extremely dangerous

possibility that you might be art.

~Robert Rauschenberg

Being right can stop all the momentum of a very interesting idea.

~Robert Rauschenberg

I really feel sorry for people who think things like soap dishes or mirrors or Coke bottles are ugly, because they're surrounded by things like that all day long, and it must make them miserable.

~Robert Rauschenberg

My concern is never art, but always what art can be used for.

~Robert Rauschenberg

I usually work in a direction until I know how to do it, then I stop, At the time that I am bored or understand - I use those words interchangeably - another appetite has formed.

~Robert Rauschenberg

Painting relates to both art and life. Neither can be made - I try to act in the gap.

~Robert Rauschenberg

I feel as though the world is a friendly boy walking along in the sun.

~Robert Rauschenberg

I don't like masterpieces having one-night stands in collectors' homes between auctions.

~Robert Rauschenberg

Success is a worn down pencil.

~Robert Rauschenberg

A pair of socks is no less suitable to make a painting with than wood,

nails, turpentine, oil and fabric.

~Robert Rauschenberg

Well, I like way downtown near the Battery. I lived down there at this time and for, I guess, the following well, this is where I moved to uptown and I've been here for four years and this is 1965.

~Robert Rauschenberg

Painting is always strongest when in spite of composition, color, etc., it appears as a fact, or an inevitability, as opposed to a souvenir or arrangement.

~Robert Rauschenberg

I prefer images that are less specific, so there is room for everyone's imagination.

~Robert Rauschenberg

Understanding is a form of blindness. Good art, I think, can never be understood.

~Robert Rauschenberg

Curiosity is the main energy.

~Robert Rauschenberg

A newspaper that you're not reading can be used for anything; and the same people didn't think it was immoral to wrap their garbage in newspaper.

~Robert Rauschenberg

While my classmates were reading their textbooks, I drew in the margins.

~Robert Rauschenberg

And also the new excitement and variety of ways that the abstract

expressionists were applying paint. You could put it on as though it were colored air and it would be painting.

~Robert Rauschenberg

Most artists try to break your heart, or they accidentally break their own hearts. But I find the quietness in the ordinary much more satisfying.

~Robert Rauschenberg

And I think that even today, New York still has more of this unexpected quality around every corner than any place else. It's something quite extraordinary

~Robert Rauschenberg

I always have a good reason for taking something out but I never have one for putting something in. And I don't want to, because that means that the picture is being painted predigested.

~Robert Rauschenberg

I am sick of talking about What and Why I am doing. I have always believed that the WORK is the word. Action is seen less clearly through reason. There are no shortcuts to directness.

~Robert Rauschenberg

A canvas is never empty.

~Robert Rauschenberg

Work is my joy... Work is my therapy, I don't know anybody who loves work as much as I do.

~Robert Rauschenberg

I don't mess around with my subconscious

~Robert Rauschenberg

And I think a painting has such a limited life anyway

~Robert Rauschenberg

I got so I was really just sick of sculpture.

~Robert Rauschenberg

So that ideas of sort of relaxed symmetry have been something for years that I have been concerned with because I think that symmetry is a neutral shape as opposed to a form of design.

~Robert Rauschenberg

But I was in awe of the painters; I mean I was new in New York, and I thought the painting that was going on here was just unbelievable

~Robert Rauschenberg

There was a whole language that I could never make function for myself in relationship to painting, and that was attitudes like tortured, struggle, pain.

~Robert Rauschenberg

It's so easy to be undisciplined. And to be disciplined is so against my character, my general nature anyway, that I have to strain a little bit to keep on the right track.

~Robert Rauschenberg

I was much happier when I had less responsibility... when my only responsibility was to my work and to myself.

~Robert Rauschenberg

I wouldn't use the same color in a picture in more than one place

~Robert Rauschenberg

Basically painting is total idiocy.

~Robert Rauschenberg

I refuse to be in this world by myself. I want an open commitment from the rest of the people.

~Robert Rauschenberg

I like photographs of anything uninteresting. Maybe just two doors on a wall... The point is to be uninteresting.

~Robert Rauschenberg

I never allowed myself the luxury of those brilliant, beautiful colors until I went to India and saw people walking around in them or dragging them in the mud. I realised they were not so artificial.

~Robert Rauschenberg

Having to be different is the same trap as having to be the same.

~Robert Rauschenberg

If you don't have trouble paying the rent, you have trouble doing something else; one needs just a certain amount of trouble.

~Robert Rauschenberg

I always have searched for a point of view that a participant could change.

~Robert Rauschenberg

I had been working purely abstractly for so long, it was important for me to see whether I was working abstractly because I couldn't work any other way, or whether I was doing it out of choice.

~Robert Rauschenberg

Photography is the most direct communication in non-violent contacts.

~Robert Rauschenberg

I think a painting is more like the real world if it's made out the real world.

~Robert Rauschenberg

The working process is ideally freeing my mind.

~Robert Rauschenberg

This is a portrait of Iris Clert if I say so.

~Robert Rauschenberg

An empty canvas is full only if you want it to be full.

~Robert Rauschenberg

I think that in the last twenty years or so, there's been a new kind of honesty in painting where painters have been very proud of paint and have let it behave openly.

~Robert Rauschenberg

If I declare it to be so, then this is a portrait.

~Robert Rauschenberg

I'm quite taken aback when I get something that appears to be technically a good photograph, because it's not necessarily my intention.

~Robert Rauschenberg

You have to have the time to feel sorry for yourself in order to be a good abstract expressionist.

~Robert Rauschenberg

Sometimes I have taken photographs and just felt so excited that I could barely hold the camera steady, and the photo was boring.

~Robert Rauschenberg

I used to think of that line in Allen Ginsberg's 'Howl', about the 'sad cup of coffee'.. ..I have had cold coffee and hot coffee and lousy coffee, But

I've never had a sad cup of coffee.

~Robert Rauschenberg

With me, it's much more a matter of accepting whatever happens, accepting all these elements from the outside and then trying to work with them in a sort of free collaboration.

~Robert Rauschenberg

I'm not so facile that I can accomplish or find out what I want to know or explore enough of the possibilities and a way of making a painting, say, in just one painting or two paintings.

~Robert Rauschenberg

Very quickly a painting is turned into a facsimile of itself when one becomes so familiar with with it that one recognizes it without looking at it.

~Robert Rauschenberg

There's a moment for everyone when you fall into your own shadow and the fact is that it's your shadow and you're forced to live in it. And this is nothing to celebrate or not celebrate. It simply is.

~Robert Rauschenberg

You wait until life is in the frame, then you have the permission to click. I like the adventure of waiting until the whole frame is full.

~Robert Rauschenberg

I don't think any one person, whether artist or not, has been given permission by anyone to put the responsibility of the way things are on anyone else

~Robert Rauschenberg

I'm sure we don't read old paintings the way they were intended

~Robert Rauschenberg

This telegram is a work of art if I say it is.

~Robert Rauschenberg

By the time you establish your priorities, there really isn't any fun or need to interest yourself in what you're doing. And this I find disastrous.

~Robert Rauschenberg

Every time I've moved, my work has changed radically.

~Robert Rauschenberg

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