

# Roger Scruton Quotes

*Art, People, Philosophy, Hands, Believe, Architecture, May, Beauty, Kitsch,  
Religious, Culture, Real, Needs, Doe, Views, Artist, Firsts, Order, Wine, Desire*

Art once made a cult of beauty. Now we have a cult of ugliness instead. This has made art into an elaborate joke, one which by now has ceased to be funny.

~Roger Scruton

There is a deep human need for beauty and if you ignore that need in architecture your buildings will not last

~Roger Scruton

Modernism in architecture went hand in hand with socialist and fascist projects to rid old Europe of its hierarchical past

~Roger Scruton

A writer who says that there are no truths, or that all truth is 'merely relative,' is asking you not to believe him. So don't.

~Roger Scruton

Through the pursuit of beauty we shape the world as a home, and in doing so we both amplify our joys and find consolation for our sorrows.

~Roger Scruton

The culture of a civilization is the art and literature through which it rises to consciousness of itself and defines its vision of the world.

~Roger Scruton

Art and music shine a light of meaning on ordinary life, and through them we are able to confront the things that trouble us and to find consolation and peace in their presence.

~Roger Scruton

It is not enough to be nice; you have to be good. We are attracted by nice people; but only on the assumption that their niceness is a sign of goodness.

~Roger Scruton

In argument about moral problems, relativism is the first refuge of the scoundrel.

~Roger Scruton

There are no chords in modernist architecture, only lines - lines that may come to an end, but that achieve no closure

~Roger Scruton

Marriage does not exist for the benefit of the present generation but for the benefit of the next

~Roger Scruton

Art has the ability to redeem life by finding beauty even in the worst aspect of things.

~Roger Scruton

Classical buildings endure because they are loved, admired and accepted, and enjoy an innate adaption to human needs and purposes.

~Roger Scruton

Beauty is vanishing from our world because we live as though it does not matter.

~Roger Scruton

A philosopher who says, 'There are no truths, only interpretations,' risks the retort: 'Is that true, or only an interpretation?'

~Roger Scruton

When art becomes merely shock value, our sense of humanity is slowly degraded.

~Roger Scruton

The best evidence of a mind is when you change it

~Roger Scruton

When gifts are replaced by rights, so is gratitude replaced by claims.  
And claims breed resentment

~Roger Scruton

To teach virtue we must educate the emotions, and this means learning  
"what to feel" in the various circumstances that prompt them.

~Roger Scruton

Being unpopular is never easy; but being unpopular in a good cause is  
a shield against despair.

~Roger Scruton

The consolation of imaginary things is not imaginary consolation.

~Roger Scruton

When truth cannot make itself known in words, it will make itself known  
in deeds.

~Roger Scruton

The abstract, unreal freedom of the liberal intellect was really nothing  
more than childish disobedience, amplified into anarchy.

~Roger Scruton

Sometimes the intention is to shock us. But what is shocking first time  
around is boring and vacuous when repeated.

~Roger Scruton

Beauty matters. It is not just a subjective thing but a universal need of  
human beings. If we ignore this need we find ourselves in a spiritual  
desert.

~Roger Scruton

Music addresses us from beyond the borders of the natural world

~Roger Scruton

Wine is not just an object of pleasure, but an object of knowledge; and the pleasure depends on the knowledge.

~Roger Scruton

The music takes over the words and makes them speak to me in another language.

~Roger Scruton

Science proposes something and then does everything it can to disprove it. Religion is not like that. It proposes something and does everything it can to keep it from being disproved.

~Roger Scruton

The art establishment has turned away from the old curriculum which puts beauty and craft at the top of the agenda.

~Roger Scruton

The sexual parts are not only vivid examples of the body's dominion; they are also apertures whose damp emissions and ammoniac smells testify to the mysterious putrefaction of the body.

~Roger Scruton

Private property is one of the best institutions which has ever evolved, to protect us from the bullying of others.

~Roger Scruton

Modernist buildings exclude dialogue, and the void that they create around themselves is not a public space but a desertification

~Roger Scruton

Creativity is not enough... the skill of the true artist is to show the real in

the light of the ideal and so transfigure it.

~Roger Scruton

Sanctions make a substantial contribution to power based on privation, and they have never hurt a single despot in the whole history of their use.

~Roger Scruton

Beauty is assailed from two directions - by the cult of ugliness in the arts, and by the cult of utility in everyday life.

~Roger Scruton

Something of the child's pure delight in creation survives in every true work of art.

~Roger Scruton

The first effect of modernism was to make high culture difficult: to surround beauty with a wall of erudition.

~Roger Scruton

Styles may change, details may come and go, but the broad demands of aesthetic judgement are permanent.

~Roger Scruton

The core of common culture is religion. Tribes survive and flourish because they have gods, who fuse many wills into a single will, and demand and reward the sacrifices on which social life depends.

~Roger Scruton

Conservatives resonate to Burke's view of society, as a partnership between the living, the unborn and the dead.

~Roger Scruton

Like adverts, today's works of art aim to create a brand, even if they

have no product to sell except themselves.

~Roger Scruton

When many people individually get what they want, the result may be something they collectively dislike.

~Roger Scruton

Kant's position is extremely subtle - so subtle, indeed, that no commentator seems to agree with any other as to what it is.

~Roger Scruton

Conservatism is itself a modernism, and in this lies the secret of its success.

~Roger Scruton

Affect not to despise beauty: no one is freed from its dominion; But regard it not a pearl of price--it is fleeting as the bow in the clouds.

~Roger Scruton

If you consider only utility, the things you build will soon be useless... nobody wants to be in it.

~Roger Scruton

Modern art was born from a desire to destroy kitsch.

~Roger Scruton

The future of mankind, for the socialist, is simple: pull down the existing order and allow the future to emerge.

~Roger Scruton

Concerning no subject would [George Bernard] Shaw be deterred by the minor accident of total ignorance from penning a definitive opinion.

~Roger Scruton

Nothing is more useful than the useless.

~Roger Scruton

The pageant of a former hour, Is Beauty in the Grave.

~Roger Scruton

A philosophy that begins in doubt assails what no-one believes, and invites us to nothing believable

~Roger Scruton

In 1970s Britain, conservative philosophy was the preoccupation of a few half-mad recluses.

~Roger Scruton

In all the areas of life where people have sought and found consolation through forbidding their desires-sex in particular, and taste in general-the habit of judgment is now to be stamped out.

~Roger Scruton

There is a sort of mystery to kitsch. When did it begin? If it is just simply another name for faking emotions, it ought to have been a permanent part of the human condition.

~Roger Scruton

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