

Susan Sontag

Quotes

*Art, Photography, Writing, People, World, Thinking, Reality, Ideas, Mean, Self,
Photograph, Book, Real, Past, Cameras, Literature, Way, Lying, Needs,
Interesting*

Sanity is a cozy lie.

~Susan Sontag

A family's photograph album is generally about the extended family and, often, is all that remains of it.

~Susan Sontag

The taste for quotations (and for the juxtaposition of incongruous quotations) is a Surrealist taste.

~Susan Sontag

A fiction about soft or easy deaths is part of the mythology of most diseases that are not considered shameful or demeaning.

~Susan Sontag

What is the most beautiful in virile men is something feminine; what is most beautiful in feminine women is something masculine.

~Susan Sontag

I haven't been everywhere, but it's on my list.

~Susan Sontag

In place of a hermeneutics we need an erotics of art.

~Susan Sontag

Surrealism in painting amounted to little more than the contents of a meagerly stocked dream world: a few witty fantasies, mostly wet dreams and agoraphobic nightmares.

~Susan Sontag

It is easier to endure than to change. But once one has changed, what was endured is hard to recall.

~Susan Sontag

A large part of the popularity and persuasiveness of psychology comes from its being a sublimated spiritualism: a secular, ostensibly scientific way of affirming the primacy of "spirit" over matter.

~Susan Sontag

Life is a movie; death is a photograph.

~Susan Sontag

...to photograph is to frame, and to frame is to exclude.

~Susan Sontag

Perversity is the muse of modern literature.

~Susan Sontag

I urge you to be as impudent as you dare. BE BOLD, BE BOLD, BE BOLD.

~Susan Sontag

Literature can train, and exercise, our ability to weep for those who are not us or ours.

~Susan Sontag

All understanding begins with our not accepting the world as it appears.

~Susan Sontag

In the valley of sorrow, spread your wings.

~Susan Sontag

I don't care about someone being intelligent; any situation between people, when they are really human with each other, produces intelligence.

~Susan Sontag

Kindness, kindness, kindness. I want to make a New Year's prayer, not a resolution. I'm praying for courage.

~Susan Sontag

I'm only interested in people engaged in a project of self-transformation.

~Susan Sontag

10 percent of any population is cruel, no matter what, and 10 percent is merciful, no matter what, and the remaining 80 percent can be moved in either direction.

~Susan Sontag

Tragedy is a vision of nihilism, a heroic or ennobling vision of nihilism.

~Susan Sontag

Intelligence is really a kind of taste: taste in ideas.

~Susan Sontag

Authoritarian political ideologies have a vested interest in promoting fear, a sense of the imminence of takeover by aliens and real diseases are useful material.

~Susan Sontag

The camera makes everyone a tourist in other people's reality, and eventually in one's own.

~Susan Sontag

It hurts to love. It's like giving yourself to be flayed and knowing that at any moment the other person may just walk off with your skin.

~Susan Sontag

The possession of a camera can inspire something akin to lust. And like all credible forms of lust, it cannot be satisfied.

~Susan Sontag

Lying is the most simple form of self-defence.

~Susan Sontag

The taste for worst-case scenarios reflects the need to master fear of what is felt to be uncontrollable. It also expresses an imaginative complicity with disaster.

~Susan Sontag

Real art has the capacity to make us nervous.

~Susan Sontag

Existence is no more than the precarious attainment of relevance in an intensely mobile flux of past, present, and future.

~Susan Sontag

Photographers are always imposing

~Susan Sontag

The fear of becoming old is born of the recognition that one is not living now the life that one wishes.

~Susan Sontag

My idea of a writer: someone interested in everything.

~Susan Sontag

Being in love means being willing to ruin yourself for the other person.

~Susan Sontag

There is an aggression implicit in every use of the camera.

~Susan Sontag

To paraphrase several sages: Nobody can think and hit someone at the

same time.

~Susan Sontag

To be an artist or a writer is to be this weird thing - a hand worker in an era of mass production.

~Susan Sontag

How boring just to be a body.

~Susan Sontag

The white race is the cancer of human history.

~Susan Sontag

The painter constructs, the photographer discloses.

~Susan Sontag

The past itself, as historical change continues to accelerate, has become the most surreal of subjects - making it possible... to see a new beauty in what is vanishing.

~Susan Sontag

Self-respect. It would make me lovable. And it's the secret to good sex.

~Susan Sontag

It is not the position, but the disposition.

~Susan Sontag

Books are not only the arbitrary sum of our dreams, and our memory. They also give us the model of self-transcendence.

~Susan Sontag

The only interesting answers are those that destroy the questions.

~Susan Sontag

A writer, I think, is someone who pays attention to the world.

~Susan Sontag

What I really wanted was every kind of life, and the writer's life seemed the most inclusive.

~Susan Sontag

Instead of just recording reality, photographs have become the norm for the way things appear to us, thereby changing the very idea of reality and of realism.

~Susan Sontag

The ideology of capitalism makes us all into connoisseurs of liberty - of the indefinite expansion of possibility.

~Susan Sontag

Depression is melancholy minus its charms - the animation, the fits.

~Susan Sontag

The life of the creative man is lead, directed and controlled by boredom. Avoiding boredom is one of our most important purposes.

~Susan Sontag

Nothing is mysterious, no human relation. Except love.

~Susan Sontag

Attention is vitality. It connects you with others. It makes you eager. Stay eager.

~Susan Sontag

A good book is an education of the heart.

~Susan Sontag

Reading usually precedes writing. And the impulse to write is almost

always fired by reading. Reading, the love of reading, is what makes you dream of becoming a writer.

~Susan Sontag

I envy paranoids; they actually feel people are paying attention to them.

~Susan Sontag

Wherever people feel safe â€” they will be indifferent.

~Susan Sontag

Our appreciations, it was felt, could be so much more inclusive if we said that something, instead of being beautiful, was 'interesting'.

~Susan Sontag

In the journal I do not just express myself more openly than I could to any person; I create myself.

~Susan Sontag

The problems of this world are only truly solved in two ways: by extinction or duplication.

~Susan Sontag

Standing alone, photographs promise an understanding they cannot deliver. In the company of words, they take on meaning, but they slough off one meaning and take on another with alarming ease.

~Susan Sontag

The photographer both loots and preserves, denounces and consecrates.

~Susan Sontag

It is not altogether wrong to say that there is no such thing as a bad photograph - only less interesting, less relevant, less mysterious ones.

~Susan Sontag

Today everything exists to end in a photograph.

~Susan Sontag

A photograph is not only an image (as a painting is an image), an interpretation of the real; it is also a trace, something directly stenciled off the real, like a footprint or a death mask.

~Susan Sontag

Decline of the letter, the rise of the notebook! One doesn't write to others any more; one writes to oneself.

~Susan Sontag

Photography is an elegiac art, a twilight art. Most subjects photographed are, just by virtue of being photographed, touched with pathos.

~Susan Sontag

No 'we' should be taken for granted when the subject is looking at other people's pain.

~Susan Sontag

My library is an archive of longings.

~Susan Sontag

Never worry about being obsessive. I like obsessive people. Obsessive people make great art

~Susan Sontag

In 'life,' I don't want to be reduced to my work. In 'work,' I don't want to be reduced to my life.

~Susan Sontag

Writing is finally a series of permissions you give yourself to be expressive in certain ways. To leap. To fly. To fail.

~Susan Sontag

Travel becomes a strategy for accumulating photographs.

~Susan Sontag

Fear of sexuality is the new, disease-sponsored register of the universe of fear in which everyone now lives.

~Susan Sontag

To photograph is to appropriate the thing photographed. It means putting oneself into a certain relation to the world that feels like knowledge-and therefore, like power.

~Susan Sontag

Time eventually positions most photographs, even the most amateurish, at the level of art.

~Susan Sontag

One doesn't need to know the artist's private intentions. The work tells all.

~Susan Sontag

One can never ask anyone to change a feeling.

~Susan Sontag

Photographed images do not seem to be statements about the world so much as pieces of it, miniatures of reality that anyone can make or acquire

~Susan Sontag

I discovered that I am tired of being a person. Not just tired of being the person I was, but any person at all

~Susan Sontag

Although there is a sense in which the camera does indeed capture reality, not just interpret it, photographs are as much an interpretation of the world as paintings and drawings are

~Susan Sontag

To photograph is to confer importance.

~Susan Sontag

Science fiction films are not about science. They are about disaster, which is one of the oldest subjects of art.

~Susan Sontag

What we need is to use what we have.

~Susan Sontag

The young-old polarization and the male-female polarization are perhaps the two leading stereotypes that imprison people.

~Susan Sontag

Anything in history or nature that can be described as changing steadily can be seen as heading toward catastrophe.

~Susan Sontag

It is the action of bodies on bodies, not bodies on minds, which the crowd enjoys.

~Susan Sontag

Love dies because its birth was an error.

~Susan Sontag

Time exists in order that everything doesn't happen all at once—and space exists so that it doesn't all happen to you.

~Susan Sontag

I make an idol of my moral consciousness. My pursuit of the good is corrupted by the sin of idolatry.

~Susan Sontag

Photographs trade simultaneously on the prestige of art and the magic of the real.

~Susan Sontag

To patronize the faculty of taste is to patronize oneself. For taste governs every free - as opposed to rote - human response.

~Susan Sontag

Lying is an elementary means of self-defense.

~Susan Sontag

The writer is either a practicing recluse or a delinquent, guilt-ridden one--or both. Usually both.

~Susan Sontag

As photographs give people an imaginary possession of a past that is unreal, they also help people to take possession of space in which they are insecure.

~Susan Sontag

Bleak factory buildings and billboard-cluttered avenues look as beautiful, through the camera's eye, as churches and pastoral landscapes.

~Susan Sontag

What, I ask, drives me to disorder? How can I diagnose myself? All I feel, most immediately, is the most anguished need for physical love and mental companionship -

~Susan Sontag

Shouting has never made me understand anything.

~Susan Sontag

What I expect from writers-and from myself as a writer-is to articulate a complex view of things. To incite us to be more compassionate. To orchestrate our mourning. And to celebrate ecstasy.

~Susan Sontag

Related Links:

- Art Quotes
- Photography Quotes
- Writing Quotes
- People Quotes
- World Quotes
- Thinking Quotes
- Reality Quotes
- Ideas Quotes
- Mean Quotes
- Self Quotes
- Photograph Quotes
- Book Quotes
- Real Quotes
- Past Quotes
- Cameras Quotes
- Literature Quotes
- Way Quotes
- Lying Quotes
- Needs Quotes
- Interesting Quotes