

Tom Verlaine

Quotes

*Thinking, People, Writing, Sound, Song, Guitar, Rocks, Mean, Player, Years,
Television, Records, Lying, Eye, Way To Live, Europe, Radio, Men, Exercise,
Influence*

The first time I met Patti Smith was in a laundromat. We knew some of the same people, including Richard Hell.

~Tom Verlaine

I just don't like people coming up to me and saying something. It immediately makes you become insincere. There is no way you can react to it sincerely.

~Tom Verlaine

When I think of 'influence', I think of 'influenza', like somebody's picked up a germ.

~Tom Verlaine

The song Venus de Milo, the whole subject of it is Love is a drug.

~Tom Verlaine

I never liked mellow sounding guitar.

~Tom Verlaine

You can't get so interested in just making sounds. The point of it all is some kind of expression.

~Tom Verlaine

Practice? I never practice. I just write songs and take solos.

~Tom Verlaine

I like thinking of myself as invisible. I find it a very advantageous way to live.

~Tom Verlaine

Everybody's out trying to be commercial. I'm not trying to be anything, really.

~Tom Verlaine

I don't see us as a big media gimmick band. We don't have a cultivated appearance or anything like Kiss.

~Tom Verlaine

When somebody turned me on to a Coltrane record around seventh grade, I took up saxophone.

~Tom Verlaine

I've got a quote for you, a good quote to describe Television...In madness there is order.

~Tom Verlaine

Places like Belgium and the south of France, Sweden and Copenhagen are really alive. They really love rock 'n' roll, they really respond.

~Tom Verlaine

I'm not even sure who my audience is.

~Tom Verlaine

I really don't have that much interest in stardom.

~Tom Verlaine

I grew up taking piano lessons and liking Wagner when I was in second grade.

~Tom Verlaine

I'm not a clown but I'm not an academic either.

~Tom Verlaine

Style to me is incidental. The British are very adept at creating it for its own sake, but the best style is incidental. John Coltrane had a style but it was totally incidental to what he was.

~Tom Verlaine

Boogie! I hate boogie, God, I mean, not the Chicago boogie like Willie Dixon or Howlin' Wolf, but all those awful white bands.

~Tom Verlaine

Emily Dickinson has great sound and sense.

~Tom Verlaine

I told somebody in Europe I was 43. I never tell my true age. It's ridiculous that people ask. The press doesn't deserve anything but lies.

~Tom Verlaine

My non-career. My excuse for a career? Honestly, I never think about the word 'career.' I've had managers, the minute they say it to me, they look at me and just roll their eyes.

~Tom Verlaine

I don't think anybody thinks about their past much, unless they're in a mental institution.

~Tom Verlaine

I always thought I was commercial. I always thought I was writing hit singles. These days, whatever's on the radio is considered commercial. People like what's on the radio, whatever it is.

~Tom Verlaine

I don't think Marquee Moon was so good, y'know? Just another record. First records everybody likes a lot.

~Tom Verlaine

I wonder what all those Chinese poets sound like in Chinese. I like their distilled quality.

~Tom Verlaine

What's really fun is to write under different names.

~Tom Verlaine

You know, there is something I'm looking for when I'm writing. But I couldn't tell you what that is.

~Tom Verlaine

The Beat thing happened when I was younger. I used to run away from home, inspired by the Beats, like in '64 and '65.

~Tom Verlaine

All the Frank O'Hara types seem to have very little sound stuff going... it's so chatty or something.

~Tom Verlaine

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