

Vivek Shraya

Quotes

Art, Writing, Artist, White, Book, Thinking, Intention, Children, Responsibility, Home, Ideas, Differences, Race, Girl, Body, Color, Feelings, Reading, Active, Agency

I couldn't write about love without writing about hate - specifically, how the experience of hatred embeds itself in the body and prevents love from entering or leaving.

~Vivek Shraya

I have been and continue to be committed to art as a tool to ignite, comfort, and discomfort.

~Vivek Shraya

Now is not the time for Canadians to be sanctimonious. It is time for us to be prudent and active.

~Vivek Shraya

Children's books have great potential to reveal new possibilities to readers, because the intended audience is at an age of genuine learning.

~Vivek Shraya

In poetry, I didn't have to provide resolution. I could ask hard questions without feeling responsible for the answers.

~Vivek Shraya

As a person of color, I know race can't be stripped from admiration or preference.

~Vivek Shraya

I have dedicated a significant portion of my time and artistry to making art that addresses various forms of oppression, including white supremacy, misogyny, and biphobia.

~Vivek Shraya

I do use art as a site of protest, particularly in relation to dominant narratives.

~Vivek Shraya

I feel like I have had to catch up to the art I've made, and learn from the protagonists I have written, especially in relation to gender.

~Vivek Shraya

It's exciting to consider how art, in its ability to reveal, can be ahead of the artist.

~Vivek Shraya

When I was writing, I wanted every word to be not only deliberate, but musical. Precious.

~Vivek Shraya

My intention was never to write a "trans novel" - which is perhaps an effective strategy for writing a trans novel.

~Vivek Shraya

If anything, I have witnessed the ways my art travels, or is rendered more accessible, when sanctioned by or connected to white artists.

~Vivek Shraya

I continue to explore poetry.

~Vivek Shraya

I didn't want to give the white reader an opportunity to think of racism as imaginary - a sentiment that is already a central barrier in addressing the problem.

~Vivek Shraya

As a general rule, I tend to collaborate with artists whose work I admire.

~Vivek Shraya

Art can sometimes be separate from the artist.

~Vivek Shraya

My interest in language is steadfast, but I think each project and its accompanying intentions dictate how language must be used.

~Vivek Shraya

Writing about racism requires a directness that writing a love story does not.

~Vivek Shraya

I don't yet know what style will be required for my next novel, but my sense is that each book will involve a new relationship to language.

~Vivek Shraya

I tend to focus less on genre as a starting point and more on idea or intention and let the idea dictate genre.

~Vivek Shraya

My art career often feels less like an art career and more like a career in educating, usually by using my body.

~Vivek Shraya

I worry about what Trump will inspire in Canada, especially given incidents that have already occurred here since the election.

~Vivek Shraya

I especially worry about the ways Canadians can be glib about our supposed difference from the US in our "acceptance" of "diversity."

~Vivek Shraya

Despite the fact that I'm not highly skilled in any visual art, aesthetics have always played a strong role in my art, including my first albums.

~Vivek Shraya

I always work with text orally in the writing process, saying passages aloud to measure flow.

~Vivek Shraya

As a brown artist, I have mixed feelings about my relationship to art and my "responsibilities" post-Trump.

~Vivek Shraya

I think white artists have a responsibility to be not only naming white supremacy, but to be using their power and privilege to support artists of color.

~Vivek Shraya

When I do book readings, I always incorporate music or singing.

~Vivek Shraya

Children are receptive to talking about gender creativity, confirming the importance of the book as a means to instigate this dialogue at an early age.

~Vivek Shraya

I have always considered the aesthetic of a project, including press photos, as a means to further the message of the art itself.

~Vivek Shraya

Music is my first love, where my artistic journey began.

~Vivek Shraya

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