

Warren MacKenzie

Quotes

*Thinking, Art, Years, School, Drawing, Class, Ideas, People, Home, Mean, Two,
Pot, Pottery, Artist, Book, Teaching, Clay, Museums, Army, Jobs*

We'll be potters, we'll be painters, we'll be textile designers, we'll be jewelers, we'll be a little this, a little of that. We were going to be the renaissance people [when we were young].

~Warren MacKenzie

[Shoji] Hamada seldom drew an exact drawing of a pot that he was going to make.

~Warren MacKenzie

Bernard [Leach] was, as I said , trained as a painter and an etcher.

~Warren MacKenzie

I was a very hard-edged geometric painter, strongly influenced by [Piet] Mondrian and [Theo] van Doesburg and that sort of thing.

~Warren MacKenzie

Alix [MacKenzie] was a looser, more linear painter, dealing with amoebic forms, let's say, close to [Joan] Miró³ as opposed to my more static exploration of space.

~Warren MacKenzie

I went to the Chicago Art Institute, which was the best painting school in the area at that time. And I took painting classes - basic elementary painting classes and drawing classes of all sorts.

~Warren MacKenzie

At that [childhood] time, of course, if you were involved in art, it was going to be drawing and painting, because that's the only thing that was taught in the schools.

~Warren MacKenzie

I was born in Kansas City, Missouri, and I do know from what my parents tell me that I was always interested in art, although not very good at it.

~Warren MacKenzie

When you're young, you think you can do anything, and we thought.

~Warren MacKenzie

[I made in army] all sorts of dumb things, but it did teach me a lot about the silk-screen process.

~Warren MacKenzie

Every pot is not going to be a masterpiece.

~Warren MacKenzie

Robert von Neumann taught painting, and when I finally got into a painting class of his, he reacted in much the same way.

~Warren MacKenzie

We benefited from living with [Bernard] Leach, because suddenly all of his friends became our acquaintances.

~Warren MacKenzie

And as far as I know about Alix's [MacKenzie] work, I don't believe she ever did any sculptural work at all. It was always pottery.

~Warren MacKenzie

[Sculpturing] didn't stick with me. I never felt I wanted to go on with that.

~Warren MacKenzie

[My pots] are not like [Hans] Coper's at all, but the idea came from seeing catalogue of his work, although at the time we knew Hans, his work was nothing like that.

~Warren MacKenzie

We got a great benefit from our contact with those people [Lucie Rie,

Hans Coper, Richard Batram] and met people that we wouldn't have probably met if we had simply worked at the pottery.

~Warren MacKenzie

There were a lot of artists in St. Ives. In fact, since the time of Whistler, St. Ives has been noted as an artist colony.

~Warren MacKenzie

We both [with Alixandra Kolesky MacKenzie] got into ceramics, you might say, by the back door. Looking back on it, I think this was a very good thing.

~Warren MacKenzie

In fact, I believe to a certain extent a person today who starts with just clay, with no drawing and no painting and no figure drawing, still-life drawing, various things, they miss a great deal.

~Warren MacKenzie

So I very quickly stopped almost all decoration. I was interested in the three-dimensional form of the pots, but my decoration was nonexistent.

~Warren MacKenzie

Bernard [Leach] was making pots which were duplicates of his drawing, and that was a difference of approach, which I think is quite critical to these two men [Leach and Shoji Hamada].

~Warren MacKenzie

It was a wonderful opportunity. And so for two and a half years we lived with [Bernard] Leach.

~Warren MacKenzie

Alix [MacKenzie] had stopped teaching because we had a child and she stayed home to take care of the baby, and I taught.

~Warren MacKenzie

I've been influenced by someone or [English artists] work. I mentioned Hans Coper as an example.

~Warren MacKenzie

Bernard's [Leach] drawings delineated every little accent on the pot, every subtle curve and change of angle and proportion and all.

~Warren MacKenzie

We stayed on at the Institute [Chicago called the School of Design] because that was - I don't know, you start at one place and you stay there, I guess. Inertia takes over.

~Warren MacKenzie

Every day we'd trudge up the hill - it was a three-quarter-mile walk up this steep hill to the Leach Pottery, and we would take our lunch with us and generally, I guess, make a nuisance of ourselves.

~Warren MacKenzie

Those two teachers [Kathleen Blackshear and Robert von Neumann] were just fantastic, I thought. They never directed you in a single direction, but they just encouraged you to think for yourself.

~Warren MacKenzie

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