

# Willem de Kooning

## Quotes

*Art, Thinking, Artist, Ideas, Space, Paint, Horse, Time, Way, Peaceful, Pain, Light, Form, Painting, Attitude, Abstract, Trembling, Today, Hands, Glimpse*

The trouble with being poor is that it takes up all your time.

~Willem de Kooning

I have to change to stay the same.

~Willem de Kooning

The attitude that nature is chaotic and that the artist puts order into it is a very absurd point of view, I think. All that we can hope for is to put some order into ourselves.

~Willem de Kooning

I don't paint to live, I live to paint.

~Willem de Kooning

What you do when you paint, you take a brush full of paint, get paint on the picture, and you have faith.

~Willem de Kooning

The drawings that interest me most are made with closed eyes. With eyes closed, I feel my hand slide down on the paper. I have an image in mind, but the results always surprise me.

~Willem de Kooning

Whatever an artist's personal feelings are, as soon as an artist fills a certain area on the canvas or circumscribes it, he becomes historical. He acts from or upon other artists.

~Willem de Kooning

It's really absurd to make... a human image, with paint, today, when you think about it... But then all of a sudden, it was even more absurd not to do it.

~Willem de Kooning

I might work on a painting for a month, but it has too look like I painted

it in a minute.

~Willem de Kooning

Spiritually I am wherever my spirit allows me to be, and that is not necessarily in the future... Art never seems to make me peaceful or pure.

~Willem de Kooning

Not even for a million dollars would I paint a tree.

~Willem de Kooning

If you're an artist, the problem is to make a picture work whether you are happy or not.

~Willem de Kooning

Style is a fraud. I always felt the Greeks were hiding behind their columns.

~Willem de Kooning

I make pictures and someone comes in and calls it art.

~Willem de Kooning

Even abstract shapes must have a likeness

~Willem de Kooning

In art one idea is as good as another.

~Willem de Kooning

An artist is forced by others to paint out of his own free will.

~Willem de Kooning

Maybe in that earlier phase I was painting the woman in me. Art isn't a wholly masculine occupation, you know.

~Willem de Kooning

I think I'm painting a picture of two women but it may turn out to be a landscape.

~Willem de Kooning

The texture of experience is prior to everything else.

~Willem de Kooning

The idea of space is given to the artist to change if he can. The subject matter in the abstract is space.

~Willem de Kooning

Content is a glimpse of something, an encounter like a flash. It's very tiny - very tiny. Content.

~Willem de Kooning

Yes, I am influenced by everybody. But every time I put my hands in my pockets I find someone else's fingers there.

~Willem de Kooning

Once, after finishing a picture, I thought I would stop for awhile, take a trip, do things-the next time I thought of this, I found five years had gone by.

~Willem de Kooning

You have to keep on the very edge of something, all the time, or the picture dies.

~Willem de Kooning

Content is a glimpse.

~Willem de Kooning

I feel sometimes an American artist must feel, like a baseball player or something - a member of a team writing American history.

~Willem de Kooning

Flesh was the reason why oil painting was invented

~Willem de Kooning

If I stretch my arms and wonder where my fingers are - that is all the space I need as a painter.

~Willem de Kooning

An artist is someone who makes art... He didn't invent it.

~Willem de Kooning

Im not someone whos ever said anything definitive about his work. In my life also I have very little fixed form. I can change overnight.

~Willem de Kooning

Art should not have to be a certain way.

~Willem de Kooning

The problem with property is that it takes so much of your time.

~Willem de Kooning

Watercolors is the first and the last thing an artist does.

~Willem de Kooning

I'd like to get all the colors in the world into one painting

~Willem de Kooning

The past does not influence me; I influence it.

~Willem de Kooning

I see the canvas and I begin... It's a necessary evil to get into the work, and it's pretty marvelous to be able to get out of it.

~Willem de Kooning

Art never seems to make me peaceful or pure. I always seem to be

wrapped in the melodrama of vulgarity. I do not think... of art as a situation of comfort.

~Willem de Kooning

Even an abstract form has to have a likeness.

~Willem de Kooning

Art never seems to make me peaceful or pure.

~Willem de Kooning

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