

Wyndham Lewis

Quotes

*Men, Art, Mind, Artist, Laughter, Strong, People, War, Running, Rights, Sex,
Self, Ideas, Taken, Song, Weakness, Revenge, Car, Science, Perfect*

The art of advertisement, after the American manner, has introduced into all our life such a lavish use of superlatives, that no standard of value whatever is intact.

~Wyndham Lewis

A hundred things are done today in the divine name of Youth, that if they showed their true colors would be seen by rights to belong rather to old age.

~Wyndham Lewis

Almost anything that can be praised or advocated has been put to some disgusting use. There is no principle, however immaculate, that has not had its compromising manipulator.

~Wyndham Lewis

The artist is always engaged in writing a detailed history of the future because he is the only person aware of the nature of the present.

~Wyndham Lewis

Prostration is our natural position. A worm-like movement from a spot of sunlight to a spot of shade, and back, is the type of movement that is natural to men.

~Wyndham Lewis

Sadistic excess attempts to reach roughly and by harshness what art reaches by fineness.

~Wyndham Lewis

I have been called a Rogue Elephant, a Cannibal Shark, and a crocodile. I am none the worse. I remain a caged, and rather sardonic, lion, in a particularly contemptible and ill-run zoo.

~Wyndham Lewis

Contradict yourself. In order to live, you must remain broken up.

~Wyndham Lewis

An artist should be as impartial as God.

~Wyndham Lewis

A sort of war of revenge on the intellect is what, for some reason, thrives in the contemporary social atmosphere.

~Wyndham Lewis

It is more comfortable for me, in the long run, to be rude than polite.

~Wyndham Lewis

Revolution today is taken for granted, and in consequence becomes rather dull.

~Wyndham Lewis

As a result of the feminist revolution, feminine becomes an abusive epithet.

~Wyndham Lewis

In a period of such obsessing political controversy as the present, I believe that I am that strange animal, the individual without any politics at all.

~Wyndham Lewis

The teacher does not have to be, although he has to know: he is the mind imagining, not the executant.

~Wyndham Lewis

Laughter is the climax in the tragedy of seeing, hearing and smelling self-consciously.

~Wyndham Lewis

Revolutionary politics, revolutionary art, and oh, the revolutionary mind,

is the dullerest thing on earth... What a stupid word! What a stale fuss!

~Wyndham Lewis

A man only goes and confesses his faults to the world when his self will not acknowledge or listen to them.

~Wyndham Lewis

All orthodox opinion - that is, today, "revolutionary" opinion either of the pure or the impure variety - is anti-man.

~Wyndham Lewis

Laughter is an independent, tremendously important, and lurid emotion.

~Wyndham Lewis

There is nothing contemptible about an intoxicated man - if it is nothing more than a bookful of words or a roomful of notes that he has got drunk on.

~Wyndham Lewis

The ideas of a time are like the clothes of a season: they are as arbitrary, as much imposed by some superior will which is seldom explicit.

~Wyndham Lewis

Revolution has become a sort of violent and hollow routine.

~Wyndham Lewis

Dying for an idea, again, sounds well enough, but why not let the idea die instead of you?

~Wyndham Lewis

The English certainly and fiercely pride themselves in never praising themselves.

~Wyndham Lewis

Art is the expression of an enormous preference.

~Wyndham Lewis

To give up another person's love is a mild suicide; like a very bad inoculation as compared to the full disease.

~Wyndham Lewis

Life is art's rival and vice versa.

~Wyndham Lewis

Surely to root politics out of art is a highly necessary undertaking: for the freedom of art, like that of science, depends entirely upon its objectivity and non-practical, non-partisan passion.

~Wyndham Lewis

Laughter is the Wild Body's song of triumph.

~Wyndham Lewis

For the first rate poet, nothing short of a Queen or a Chimera is adequate for the powers of his praise.

~Wyndham Lewis

Artists put as much vitality and delight into their saintliness and escape out as most men do their escapes into similar places from respectable existence.

~Wyndham Lewis

Wherever there is objective truth, there is satire.

~Wyndham Lewis

The earth has become one big village, with telephones laid on from one end to the other, and air transport, both speedy and safe.

~Wyndham Lewis

I am an artist, and, through my eye, must confess to a tremendous bias. In my purely literary voyages my eye is always my compass.

~Wyndham Lewis

Instead of the vast organization to exploit the weakness of the Many, should we not possess one for the exploitation of the intelligence of the Few?

~Wyndham Lewis

To be a satirist, at all events. The venom of Pope is what is needed. The sense of delight -- the expansion and the compassion of Shakespeare is no good at all for that. He is a bad comic.

~Wyndham Lewis

Sex is of the same clay as Time! -- of the same clay Since both are in their essence but One-Way Time is the one-way dimension: sex its tart And subtle biological counterpart.

~Wyndham Lewis

Elephants are VERY BIG. Motor cars go quickly.

~Wyndham Lewis

What is the good of being an island, if you are not a volcanic island?

~Wyndham Lewis

No American worth his salt should go looking around for a root. I advance this in all modesty, as a not unreasonable opinion.

~Wyndham Lewis

The ideal of perfect Success is an ideal belonging to the same sort of individual as the inventor of Equal Rights of man and Perfectibility.

~Wyndham Lewis

Lenin in a top hat and frock coat would be a far greater anomaly than the Grand Lama of Thibet or a Zulu chief in that costume.

~Wyndham Lewis

Where there is abundance you can afford waste.

~Wyndham Lewis

Gertrude Stein's prose-song is a cold, black suet-pudding.... Cut it at any point, it is the same thing ... all fat, without nerve.

~Wyndham Lewis

Lewis sought no disciples, nor does he offer a program or solution, rather his contribution is a critical discipline. Lewis is a stimulant, a mode of perception, rather than a position or practice.

~Wyndham Lewis

Spain is an overflow of sombreness . . . a strong and threatening tide of history meets you at the frontier.

~Wyndham Lewis

People are so overwhelmed with the prestige of their instruments that they consider their personal judgement of hardly any account.

~Wyndham Lewis

Laughter is the representative of Tragedy, when Tragedy is away.

~Wyndham Lewis

We are the first men of a Future that has not materialized. We belong to a "great age" that has not "come off". We moved too quickly for the world. We set too sharp a pace.

~Wyndham Lewis

Happiness is the chief material also in the construction of Utopias.

~Wyndham Lewis

Satire has a great big glaring target. If successful, it blasts a great big hole in the center. Directness there must be and singleness of aim: it is all aim, all trajectory.

~Wyndham Lewis

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