

WHAT IS ART?

The following quotes pertaining to art were compiled by Steve Keller and Associates, Inc. Museum Security Consultants 555 Granada G-3 Ormond Beach Florida 32714 (386) 789-673-5034.

Abstract Art: A product of the untalented, sold by the unprincipled to the utterly bewildered.

--Al Capp

All art is a revolt against man's fate.

--Andre Malraux

Buy Old Masters. They fetch a much better price than old mistresses.

--Lord Beaverbrook

A painting in a museum hears more ridiculous opinions than anything else in the world. (Except, perhaps, a corpse in a coffin.)

--Edmond de Goncourt (1822-1896)

Art for art's sake makes no more sense than gin for gin's sake.

--Somerset Maugham

For every artist with something to say but the inability to say it well, there are two who could say something well if they had something to say.

--Paul C. Mills

Bad artists always admire each other's work.

--Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)

It is only an auctioneer who can equally and impartially admire all schools of art. (On the other hand, he may sell a painting he doesn't like, to another man who doesn't want it, for twice its value.)

--Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)

It does not matter how badly you paint so long as you don't paint badly like other people.

--George Moore

An artist never really finishes his work; he merely abandons it.

--Paul Valery

A doctor can bury his mistakes but an architect can only advise his client to plant vines.

--Frank Lloyd Wright

Everything is art if it is chosen by the artist to be art.

--Samuel Adams Green

One reassuring thing about modern art is that things can't be as bad as they are painted.

--M. Walthall Jackson

Modern art is what happens when painters stop looking at girls and persuade themselves they have a better idea.

--John Ciardi

A great artist is always before his time or behind it.

--George Moore

He paints as a bird sings.

--Paul Signac, of Monet

Don't talk to me of Gauguin. I'd like to wring the fellow's neck!

--Paul Cezanne

He bores me. He ought to have stuck to his flying machines.

--August Renoir, of Leonardo da Vinci

The connoisseur of art must be able to appreciate what is simply beautiful, but the common run of people are satisfied with ornament.

--Johann W. von Goethe (1749-1832)

The rule in the art world is: you cater to the masses or you kowtow to the elite; you can't have both.

--Ben Hecht

Art happens--no hovel is safe from it, no Prince may depend upon it, the vastest intelligence cannot bring it about.

--James McNeil Whistler

Painting is silent poetry, and poetry is painting that speaks.

--Simonides (6th-5th century B.C.)

A nation in which a congressman can seriously ask, "Do you think the artist is a special person?" is a nation living in cultural jeopardy.

--James Thurber

All day long I add up columns of figures and make everything balance. I come home. I sit down. I look at a Kandinsky and it's wonderful! It doesn't mean a damn thing!

--Solomon Guggenheim

With an apple I will astonish Paris.

--Paul Cezanne

I shut my eyes in order to see.

--Paul Gauguin

I am for an art that is political-erotic-mystical, that does something other than sit on its ass in a museum.

--Claes Oldenburg

A primitive artist is an amateur whose work sells.

--Grandma Moses

A painter who has the feel of breasts and buttocks is saved.

--August Renoir

All profoundly original art looks ugly at first.

--Clement Greenberg

Nothing in the world requires more courage than to applaud the destruction of values which we still cherish. If a work of art or a new style disturbs you, then it is probably good work. If you hate it, it is probably great.

--Leo Steinberg

Without art, the crudeness of reality would make the world unbearable.

--George Bernard Shaw

To be deprived of art and left alone with philosophy is to be close to Hell.

--Igor Stravinsky

Art is much less important than life, but what a poor life without it.

--Robert Motherwell

All the really good ideas I ever had came to me while I was milking a cow.

--Grant Wood

No art was ever less spontaneous than mine. What I do is the result of reflection and study; of inspiration, spontaneity, temperament, I know nothing.

--Edgar Degas

Art is the most frenzied orgy man is capable of.

--Jean Dubuffet

Art is idea. It is not enough to draw, paint, and sculpt. An artist should be able to think.

--Gurdon Woods

Art hath an enemy called Ignorance.

--Ben Johnson (1572-1637)

A man paints with his brains and not with his hands.

--Michelangelo (1475-1564)

To paint a fine picture is far more important than to sell it.

--Edward Alden Jewell

Once Degas witnessed one of his paintings sold at auction for \$100,000. Asked how he felt, he said, "I feel as a horse must feel when the beautiful cup is given to the jockey."

Anyone who sees and paints a sky green and pastures blue ought to be sterilized.

--Adolph Hitler

Artists can color the sky red because they know it's blue. Those of us who aren't artists must color things the way they really are or people might think we're stupid.

--Jules Feiffer

You are born and you die. In between,
you wander. A museum is a place
where the marks of your wanderings
are preserved.

There's no way any one person can
approve of everything that hangs in
a museum. It would be like liking
everyone in the world.

It is nice that someone dedicates
his or her life to protecting the art--
because it is art--whether he
approves of it or not.

--Harry Jackson
Artist--3/16/81

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