

What is Art?

Quotes About Art and the Creation of Art

“Physical beauty depends on the **harmony** created by symmetry and proportion, on the rational, even mathematical, view of the world.”

Plato, Greek, 428 – 348 BC

“The aim of art is to represent not the outward appearance of things, but their **inward significance**.” Aristotle Greek, 384 – 322 BC

“(the work of art) that merits both praise and admiration will be so agreeably and pleasantly attractive that it will **capture the eye** of whatever learned or unlearned person is looking at it and will **move his soul**.”

Leon Battista Alberti, Italian, 1404 – 1472

“The true artist should engage in intellectual activity of a higher order and attempt to capture the inner life – **the energy and the power** – of a subject.”

Leonardo da Vinci, Italian, 1452 – 1519

“Fine art is that in which the **hand**, the **head** and the **heart** of man go together.”

John Ruskin, English Art Critic, 1819 – 1900

"Art is not what you see, but **what you make others see**."

Edgar Degas, French 1834 – 1917

“An art which isn't based on feeling isn't an art at all... **feeling** is the principle, the beginning and the end; craft, objective, technique - all these are in the middle.”

Paul Cezanne, French, 1839 - 1906

“A picture is a work of art, not because it is "modern," nor because it is "ancient," but because it is a sincere **expression of human feeling**.”

John F. Carlson, American, (1875-1947)

“I found I could say things with color and shapes that I couldn't say any other way – things I had **no words** for.”

Georgia O'Keeffe, American, 1887-1986

"What a society deems important is **enshrined in its art**"

Harry Broudy, American Educator, 1905 – 1998

“Art condenses the experience we all have as human beings, and, by forming it, makes it significant. We all have an in-built need for harmony and the structures that create harmony. Basically, **art is an affirmation of life**.”

Trevor Bell, English, b. 1920

“Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life.”
Pablo Picasso, Spanish, 1881 – 1973

“Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes. Art is knowing which ones to keep.”
Scott Adams (Dilbert), American Artist, b. 1957

“Painting is an attempt **to come to terms with life.**
There are as many solutions as there are human beings.”
George Tooker, American Artist, b. 1920 Recipient National Medal of Honor