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Quotes by Ciardi, John

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John Anthony Ciardi (June 24, 1916 - March 30, 1986) was an American poet, translator, and etymologist.

The Constitution gives every American the inalienable right to make a damn fool of himself.

- Ciardi, John

Every parent is at some time the father of the unreturned prodigal, with nothing to do but keep his house open to hope.

- Ciardi, John

Love is the word used to label the sexual excitement of the young, the habituation of the middle-aged, and the mutual dependence of the old.

- Ciardi, John

There is nothing wrong with sobriety in moderation.

- Ciardi, John

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

- Ciardi, John

You do not have to suffer to be a poet. Adolescence is enough suffering for anyone.

- Ciardi, John

A neighborhood is a residential area that is changing for the worse.

- Ciardi, John

A university is what a college becomes when the faculty loses interest in students.

- Ciardi, John



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