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Quotes by Apollinaire, Guillaume

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Guillaume Apollinaire (August 26, 1880 – November 9, 1918) was a poet, writer, and art critic. The foremost French poet of the early 20th century, he is credited with coining the word surrealism and writing one of the earliest works described as surrealist, the play *Les Mamelles de Tirsi s* (1917). Two years after being wounded in World War I, he died at 38 of the Spanish flu during a pandemic.

Come to the edge, He said. They said, We are afraid. Come to the edge, He said. They came. He pushed them... and they flew.

- Apollinaire, Guillaume

Now and then it's good to pause in our pursuit of happiness and just be happy.

- Apollinaire, Guillaume

I love men, not for what unites them, but for what divides them, and I want to know most of all what gnaws at their hearts.

- Apollinaire, Guillaume

A structure becomes architectural, and not sculptural, when its elements no longer have their justification in nature.

- Apollinaire, Guillaume

Artists are, above all, men who want to become inhuman.

- Apollinaire, Guillaume

Without poets, without artists, men would soon weary of nature's monotony. The sublime idea men have of the universe would collapse with dizzying speed. The order which we find in nature, and which is only an effect of art, would at once vanish. Everything would break up in chaos. There would be no seasons, no civilization, no thought, no humanity; even life would give way, and the impotent void would reign everywhere.

- Apollinaire, Guillaume

The plastic virtues: purity, unity, and truth, keep nature in subjection.

- Apollinaire, Guillaume

To insist on purity is to baptize instinct, to humanize art, and to deify personality.

- Apollinaire, Guillaume



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