

Say Hello to
your very own book of
Quotes



QuotationsBook

Quotes about Portraits

from QuotationsBook.com

It seems to be a law of nature that no man, unless he has some obvious physical deformity, ever is loth to sit for his portrait.

- Beerbohm, Sir Max

Mr. Lely, I desire you would use all your skill to paint my picture truly like me, and not flatter me at all; but remark all these roughnesses, pimples, warts, and everything as you see me, otherwise I will never pay a farthing for it.

- Cromwell, Oliver

There are only two styles of portrait painting; the serious and the smirk.

- Dickens, Charles

Sir Joshua would have been glad to take her portrait; and he would have had an easier task than the historian at least in this, that he would not have had to represent the truth of change --only to give stability to one beautiful moment.

- Eliot, George

The explanation of the propensity of the English people to portrait painting is to be found in their relish for a Fact. Let a man do the grandest things, fight the greatest battles, or be distinguished by the most brilliant personal heroism, yet the English people would prefer

his portrait to a painting of the great deed. The likeness they can judge of; his existence is a Fact. But the truth of the picture of his deeds they cannot judge of, for they have no imagination.

- Haydon, Benjamin

I had rather see the portrait of a dog that I know, than all the allegorical paintings they can show me in the world.

- Johnson, Samuel

Some will not recognize the truthfulness of my mirror. Let them remember that I am not here to reflect the surface... but must penetrate inside. My mirror probes down to the heart. I write words on the forehead and around the corners of the mouth. My human faces are truer than the real ones.

- Klee, Paul

When you start with a portrait and search for a pure form, a clear volume, through successive eliminations, you arrive inevitably at the egg. Likewise, starting with the egg and following the same process in reverse, one finishes with the portrait.

- Picasso, Pablo

Few persons who have ever sat for a portrait can have felt anything but inferior while the process is going on.

- Powell, Anthony

He reproduced himself with so much humble objectivity, with the unquestioning, matter of fact interest of a dog who sees himself in a mirror and thinks: there's another dog.

- Rilke, Rainer Maria

I hate to paint portraits! I hope never to paint another portrait in my life. Portraiture may be all right for a man in his youth, but after forty I believe that manual dexterity deserts one, and, besides, the color-sense is less acute. Youth can better stand the exactions of a personal kind that are inseparable from portraiture. I have had enough of it.

- Sargent, John Singer

Most of our modern portrait painters are doomed to absolute oblivion. They never paint what they see. They paint what the public sees, and the public never sees anything.

- Wilde, Oscar



QuotationsBook