

collected thoughts on

ART

POLITICS

LIFE

DEATH

Art is fear and trembling,
desperation and despair,
Tragedy and comedy,
Disgust and delight,
revelations and titillation,
Finding and losing,
construction and destruction,
But whatever else it is,
Art is an original labor
of love.

—John Sedgwick

Every human being has the
right to communicate in any
medium. This right includes
freedom of opinion and
expression, and the right
to seek, receive and impart
information, regardless of
frontiers.

—Article 19, U.D.H.R.

Since everything is but an apparition perfect in being what it is, having nothing to do with good or bad, acceptance or rejection, one may well burst out in laughter.

—Bhuddist Proverb

Do not fear death so much, but rather the inadequate life.

—Bertolt Brecht

Politics I supposed
to be the second-
oldest profession.
I have come to
realize that it
bears a very close
resemblance to
the first.

—Ronald Reagan

Nothing can be created
from nothing.

—Lucretius

And I too felt ready to live my life again. As if this outburst of anger had purged all my ills, killed all my hopes, I looked up at the mass of signs and stars in the night sky and laid myself open for the first time to the benign indifference of the world. And finding it so much like myself, in fact, so fraternal, I'd realized that I'd been happy and that I was still happy.

—Albert Camus

Once the game is over,
the king and the pawn go
back into the same box.

—Italian proverb

They are imbeciles who call my work abstract; that which they call abstract is the most realist, because what is real is not the exterior form but the idea, the essence of things.

—Constantin Brancusi

The Question of knowing if one can think differently than one thinks and perceive differently than one sees is absolutely necessary if one is to go on looking and reflecting at all.

—Michel Foucault

Heaven is merely a vantage point, from which the divine ground can be more clearly seen than on the level of ordinary individualized existence.

—Aldous Huxley

Now cracks a noble heart.
Good night, sweet prince,
And flights of angels to thy rest.

—William Shakespeare

The principal raison d'être of the artist is the rejection of the society in which he lives. If he is prevented from giving expression to this rejection, art receives the death sentence.

—Alain Jouffroy

If you're going to try, go all the way. Otherwise, don't even start.

—Charles Bukowski

All the institutions of “advanced democracy”, all “social conquests” concerning growth, culture, personal and collective creativity, all of this, as it has always been, are simply the right of private property, the real right of the few. And for everyone else there are daycare centers and nurseries, institutions of social control in which the productive forces are deliberately neutralized. For the system no longer needs universal productivity; it requires that everyone play the game.

—Jean Baudrillard

The true end of man, or that which is prescribed by the eternal and immutable dictates of reasons, and not suggested by vague or transient desires, is the highest and most harmonious development of his powers to a complete and consistent whole.

–Wilhelm VonHumboldt

What is moral and immoral?
Nobody can ever answer
this question satisfactorily.
Not because morals
ceaselessly evolve, but
because the principle on
which they depend is
fictitious. Morality is for
slaves, for beings without
spirit. And when I say spirit,
I mean the holy spirit.

—Henry Miller

In art, truth and beauty begin when one no longer understands what one is doing or what one knows, and when there remains an energy that is stronger for being constrained, controlled and compressed.

—Henri Matisse

It is not desirable to cultivate a respect for the law, so much as for the right. The only obligation which I have a right to assume is to do at any time what I think right.

—Henry David Thoreau

Because I am not a man,
not a poet, not a leaf,
only a wounded pulse
that probes things
of the other side.

—Frederico Garcia Lorca

Truth is ugly. We possess art
lest we perish of the truth.

–Friedrich Nietzsche

I Know the path:
it is straight and narrow,
it is like the edge of a sword.
I rejoice when I walk on it,
I weep when I slip.

–Mohatmas Gandhi

**Nothing exists except
atoms and empty space;
everything else is opinion.**

—Democritus, 400 BCE

**Tuesday:
Nothing, existed.
Wednesday:
I must not be afraid.**

—Jean Paul Sartre

If we don't develop adequate images

The pure products of America go

Here is a test to find whether you
If you're alive, it isn't.

Death is not extinguishing the light
it is putting out the lamp because

ges, we will die out like dinosaurs.

–Werner Herzog

crazy.

–W.C.Williams

mission on earth is finished.

–Richard Bach

t;
the dawn has come.

–Rabindranath Tagore

Do you know not that a multitude of your brethren die or suffer from need of what you have in excess, and that you needed express and unanimous consent from the human race to appropriate anything from common subsistence that exceeded your own?

—Jean-Jacques Rousseau

I must create a system or
be enslaved by another
man's. I will not reason
and compare:
my business is to create.

—William Blake

The thing is to find a truth which
is true for me, to find the idea for
which I can live or I can die.

—Søren Kierkegaard

Everyone understands the
that pain that accompanies
death, but genuine pain
doesn't live in the spirit, nor
in the air, nor in our lives,
nor on these terraces of
billowing smoke.

The genuine pain that keeps
everything awake is a tiny
infinite burn on the innocent
eyes of other systems.

—Frederico Garcia Lorca

What would life be with courage to attend

There are a thousand hacking at the branches
of evil to one who is hacking at the root.

—Henry David Thoreau

These works are realities,
pure and independent,
with no meaning or cerebral intention.

—Jean Arp

be if we had no
npt anything?

—Vincent Van Gogh

And as my grey hands
drop a last desperate pen
in some cheap room they
will find me there and
never know my name my
meaning nor the treasure
of my escape.

—Charles Bukowski

Beauty is but the consciou

The content of painting is painting.
Nothing has to be deciphered.
The content, filled with happiness,
speaks to that person to whom
each form is alive, i.e.,
has content.

–Wassily Kandinsky

Wealth and power tend to accrue to those who
are ruthless, cunning, avaricious, self-seeking,
lacking in sympathy and compassion, subservient
to authority and willing to abandon principle for
material gain.

–Noam Chomsky

s sum of our perversions.

—Salvador Dalí

Dead men naked they shall be one
with the man in the wind and the west
moon; when their bones are picked
clean and the clean bones gone, they
shall have stars at
elbow and foot; though they go mad
they shall be sane, though they sink
through the sea they shall rise again;
though lovers be lost love shall not,
and death shall have no dominion.

—Dylan Thomas

All Nature is but art,
unknown to thee; all
chance, direction which
thou canst not see; all
discord, harmony not
understood; all partial
evil, universal good;
and, spite of pride, in
erring reason's spite,
one truth is clear,
"whatever is, is right."

—Alexander Pope

People who wake up early cause
greed, death and famine.

—Banksy

Between the emotion
and the response
falls the shadow.

—T. S. Eliot

What you analyzing for, man?
Get in and do it!

—Abbie Hoffman

You are the content of any extension of yourself, whether it be pin or pen, pencil or sword, be it palace or page, song or dance or speech.

—Marshall McLuhan

Wisdom, like other precious substances, must be torn from the bowels of the earth.

—Jérôme Cardan

The imagination is the
mind and hence the
The extreme of its
abstraction.

But I tell you also what I do not fear. I do not fear to be alone or to be spurned for another or to leave whatever I have to leave.

And I am not afraid to make a mistake, even a great mistake, a lifelong mistake and perhaps an eternity too.

—James Joyce

the liberty of the
the liberty of reality.
achievement lies in

—Wallace Stevens

I am influenced enough by these people to tell my students, the poets at least, to cultivate an ignorance of contemporary political and military events because they do not matter. I tell them not to vote, to join nothing.

—Karl Shapiro

**Make visible who
might never have**

Q: How do you know when you're finished?

A: How do you know when you are finished making love?

—Jackson Pollock, to *Time Magazine*, when asked about his paintings

at, without you,
e been seen.

—Henri Cartier-Bresson

A single death is a tragedy;
a million deaths is a statistic.

—Joseph Stalin

Too many people are thinking of security instead of opportunity. They seem more afraid of life than death.

—James F. Byrnes

Men fear thought as they fear nothing else on earth — more than ruin — more even than death. . . Thought is subversive and revolutionary, destructive and terrible, thought is merciless to privilege, established institutions, and comfortable habit. Thought looks into the pit of hell and is not afraid. Thought is great and swift and free, the light of the world, and the chief glory of man.

—Bertrand Russell

In a time of
universal deceit,
telling the truth
is a revolutionary act.

—George Orwell

To name an object
is to suppress three
quarters of the
enjoyment. . .
To suggest it,
that is the dream.

—Stéphane Mallarmé

The artist is the only person – his antennae pick up these messages before anybody. So he is thought of as being way ahead of his time because he lives in the present. There are very many reasons why people prefer to live in the age just behind them. It's safer. To live right on the shooting line, right on the frontier of change, is terrifying.

–Marshal McLuhan

I have no money, no
resources, no hopes.
I am the happiest man alive.

—Henry Miller

It's amazing I won.
I was running against peace,
prosperity and incumbency.

—G.W. Bush, to Swedish Prime Minister Goran Perrson,
unaware a live television camera was rolling

You may do with it what you
like, provided you do not
imagine it to be me.

—Socrates, when asked by students what
they should do with his body

L'état, c'

Each page must explode,
either with the profoundly
serious and heavy, the
whirlwind, the dizziness,
the new, the eternal, with
the overwhelming hoax,
with an enthusiasm for
principles or with the
mode of typography.

—Dada Manifesto 1918

But to have done instead
of not doing, this is not
vanity.

To have, with decency,
knocked that a blunt
should open
To have offered from the
air a live tradition
Or from a fine old eye the
unconquered flame
This is not vanity.

Here error is all in the not
done, all in the diffidence
that faltered. . .

—Ezra Pound

est moi.

—*The state, it is I.* France's Louis XIV

Consume my heart away;
sick with desire and fastened
to a dying animal it is;
and gather me into the
artifice of eternity.

—W. B. Yeats

A masterpiece can never look like a masterpiece. It must be imperfect and full of mistakes, since it is the triumph of the mistakes that make it a masterpiece.

—Jean Cocteau

I must study politics and war that my sons may have liberty to study mathematics and philosophy, geography, natural history, naval architecture, navigation, commerce, and agriculture, in order to give their children a right to study painting, poetry, music, architecture, statuary, tapestry, and porcelain.

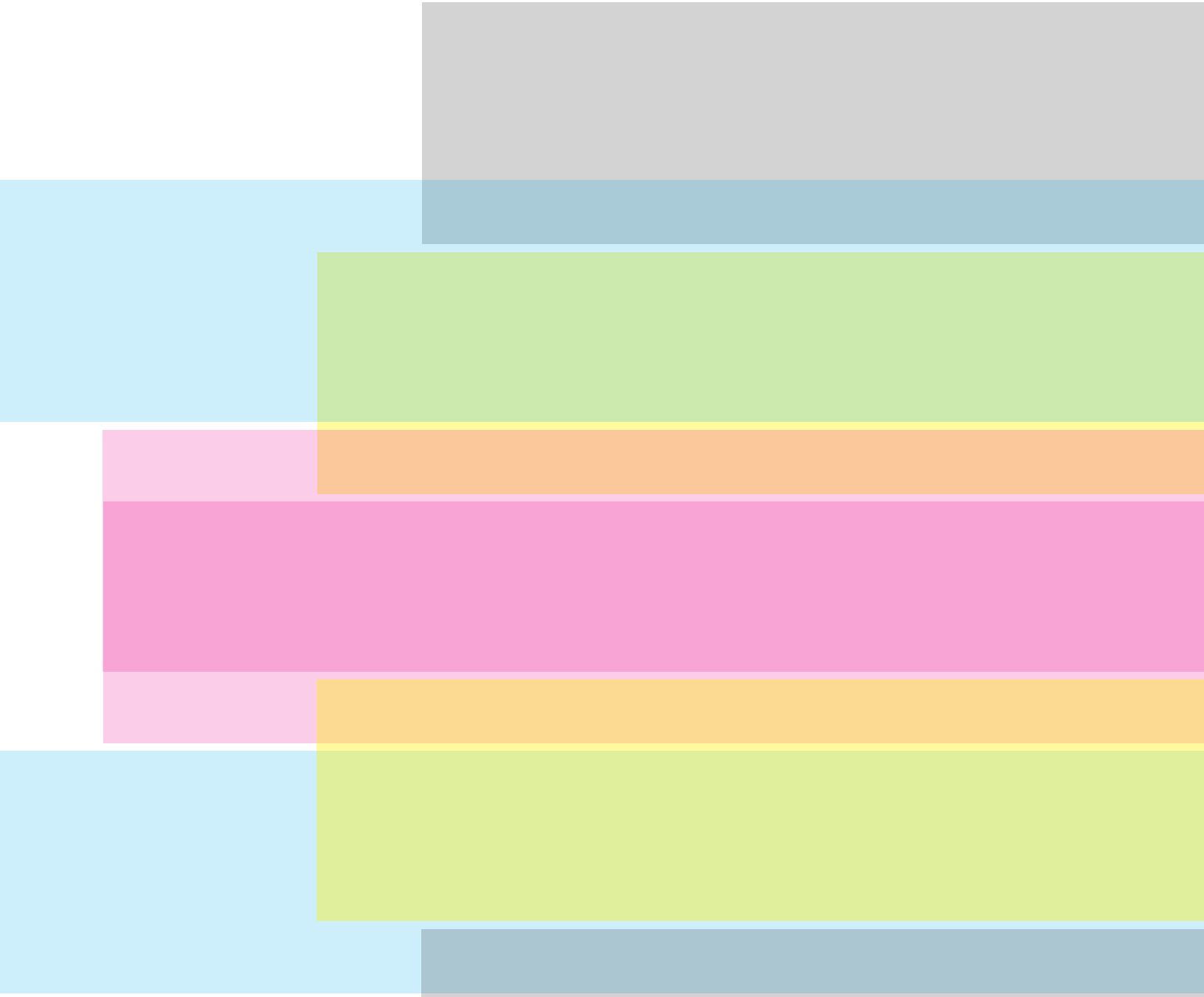
—John Adams

I believe there is still something inherent in the fiber of America worth saving, and that fortunes of the entire world may well ride on the ability of young Americans to face the responsibilities of an old America gone mad.

—Phil Ochs

When the body sinks into death, the essence of man is revealed. Man is a knot, a web, a mesh into which relationships are tied. Only those relationships matter. The body is an old crock that nobody will miss. I have never known a man to think of himself when dying. Never.

—Antoine de Saint-Exupery



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