

## Inside Art 2013 — SubRosa — Quotations by Artists

### Quotations by Ai Weiwei

- If my art has nothing to do with people's pain and sorrow, what is 'art' for?
- I call on people to be 'obsessed citizens,' forever questioning and asking for accountability. That's the only chance we have today of a healthy and happy life.
- Censorship is saying: 'I'm the one who says the last sentence. Whatever you say, the conclusion is mine.' But the internet is like a tree that is growing. The people will always have the last word - even if someone has a very weak, quiet voice. Such power will collapse because of a whisper.

### Quotations by Barbad Golshiri

- The only relationship between many of my colleagues and the government is censorship.
- The Ministry shuts exhibitions down, demonizes films, and censors works from exhibitions, catalogues, books. They recently ordered to close the House of Cinema. It is even worse when it comes to literature; to issue a permission they used to read the text, but now they search for sexual, political, subversive keywords. Alcohol is prohibited even in foreign literature.
- Here intellectuals are "mildews of the mind" and they will grow back anyhow. Our job is to corrupt this purity.

### Quotations by José Toirac and Meira Marrero

- We focus on those events that have shaped the life of present-day Cuban society, and at the same time are points of cultural interaction with human history in general.
- You have to be very clear what you are creating is a piece of art and not a political statement, or go to jail.
- I like to explore the anthropology and static life.

### Quotations by Ramón Esono Ebalé

- I am not a prophet and I will not change the world, I love to draw and then if I want to say something in my work, I say it openly.
- We can be positive, strong, capable, but we cannot expect that this world will be happy.
- Someday things may change, the price will be high, but they will change. We deserve it.

#### Quotations by Zanele Muholi

- I always say to people that I'm an activist before I'm an artist. To me, you take a particular photo in order for other people to take action. So you become an agent for change in a way.
- It is important for us to speak up for a larger community. Expression has for years been suppressed by gatekeepers, so we collaborate to document our history.
- You live with fear obviously. I am exposed and there is nowhere to run to. In my head space I would rather be killed for what I am than to be killed in silence.

#### Quotations by Khaled Jarrar

- I believe that art can create reality.
- I am an activist for freedom, so this is how I find the role of the artist.
- I think art should make a difference and we should use art to send our message loudly to shake and provoke the system and to say to the politicians 'stop – where are you taking us?'