



Educating and celebrating the life and work of Louise Nevelson.

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QUOTES

"My total conscious search in life has been for a new seeing, a new image, a new insight. This search not only includes the object, but the in-between place. The dawns and the dusks. The objective world, the heavenly spheres, the places between the land and sea...Whatever creation man invents, the image can be found in nature. We cannot see anything that we are not already aware of. The inner, the outer = One."

— *Louise Nevelson* by John Gordon, Whitney Museum of Art, 1967, p.12

"Only a few basic forms unify the art of all periods, the rest are variations."

— *Nevelson Wood Sculptures* by Martin Friedman, Walker Art Center, 1973, p.11

The Architect of Shadow

"I gave myself the title. You see shadow and everything else on earth actually is moving. Movement – that's in color, that's in form, that's in almost everything. Shadow is fleeting... and I arrest it and I give it a solid substance."

— *Dawns & Dusks* by Diana MacKown, 1976, p.127

"When you are centered, people can't control you because they are your reflection. By the same token, you are their reflection."

— *Dawns & Dusks* by Diana MacKown, 1976, p.180

"The greatest thing we have is the awareness of the mind. There we can build mansions. There we have all the things that are not given to us on earth."

— *Dawns & Dusks* by Diana MacKown, 1976, p.148

"...in life you cannot dig for the truth in every area. Must there be an answer? You take a flower, and you take every petal, and you won't have a flower. Keep the flower."

— *Dawns & Dusks* by Diana MacKown, 1976, p.187

"The nature of creation is that you have to go inside and dig out. The very nature of creation is not a performing glory on the outside, it's a painful, difficult search within."

— *Dawns & Dusks* by Diana MacKown, 1976, p.72

"I feel that we humans have measurements within ourselves. When I stretch my arms out and up, as I am doing now, I feel I have crossed many times across the ocean and touched all parts of the world. That's why I think the greatest thing we have is the awareness of the mind. Because there we can build many mansions, there we have all the things that are not given to us on earth."

— *Dawns & Dusks* by Diana MacKown, 1976, p.148

"...black creates harmony and doesn't intrude on the emotions."

— *Atmospheres and Environments*, C.N. Potter and Whitney Museum of American Art, 1980, p.174

"About what black...the illusion of black means to me: I don't think I chose it for black. I think it chose me for saying something. You see, it says more for me than anything else. In the academic world, they used to say black and white were no colors, but I'm twisting that to tell you that for me it is the total color. It means totality. It means: contains all."

— *Dawns & Dusks* by Diana MacKown, 1976, p.125

"But when I fell in love with black, it contained all color. It wasn't a negation of color. It was an acceptance. Because black encompasses all colors. Black is the most aristocratic color of all.You can be quiet and it contains the whole thing. There is no color that will give you the feeling of totality. Of peace. Of greatness. Of quietness. Of excitement. I have seen things that were transformed into black, that took on just greatness. I don't know a lesser word."

— *Dawns & Dusks* by Diana MacKown, 1976, p.126

“Humans really are heir to every possibility within themselves, and it is only up to us to admit it and accept it. You see, you can buy the whole world and you are empty, but when you create the whole world, you are full.”

— LN interview by Arnold Glimcher “Louise Nevelson Remembered”, NY:
The Pace Gallery, 1989.

“Everytime I put on clothes, I’m creating a picture.”

— *Dawns & Dusks* by Diana MacKown, 1976, p.187

“So I don’t think it’s difficult to see where people move into different areas, and some go out of their bodies and never know how to return. If you study metaphysics you’ll see that we can get out of ourselves. And maybe there is a bit of danger – so what? You have to have the courage to try it. What would you do with life if you didn’t risk it?”

— *Dawns & Dusks* by Diana MacKown, 1976, p.128

“I never for one minute questioned what I had to do. I did not think for one minute that I didn’t have what I had. It just didn’t dawn on me. And so if you know what you have, then you know that there’s nobody on earth that can affect you.”

— *Dawns & Dusks* by Diana MacKown, 1976, p.95

“When I look at the city from my point of view, I see New York City as a great big sculpture.”

— *Dawns & Dusks* by Diana MacKown, 1976, p.111

“I go to the sculpture, and my eye tells me what is right for me. When I compose, I don’t have anything but the material, myself, and an assistant. I compose right there while the assistant hammers. Sometimes it’s the material that takes over; sometimes it’s me that takes over. I permit them to play, like a seesaw. I use action and counteraction, like in music, all the time. Action and counteraction. It was always a relationship – my speaking to the wood and the wood speaking back to me.”

— *Dawns & Dusks* by Diana MacKown, 1976, p.120