

# Agnes Varda

## Quotes

*People, Thinking, Beautiful, Film, Trying, Needs, Way, Cinema, Strong, Years,  
Want, Mean, Interesting, Different, Ideas, War, Believe, Sometimes, Men,  
Watches*

You can buy a good pasta but when you cook it yourself it has another feeling.

~Agnes Varda

In my films I always wanted to make people see deeply. I don't want to show things, but to give people the desire to see.

~Agnes Varda

This is all you need in life: a computer, a camera, and a cat.

~Agnes Varda

Humor is such a strong weapon, such a strong answer. Women have to make jokes about themselves, laugh about themselves, because they have nothing to lose.

~Agnes Varda

If we opened people up, we'd find landscapes.

~Agnes Varda

Hands are the tool of the painter, the artist.

~Agnes Varda

The tool of every self-portrait is the mirror. You see yourself in it. Turn it the other way, and you see the world .

~Agnes Varda

I'm not interested in seeing a film just made by a woman - not unless she is looking for new images.

~Agnes Varda

I'm still fighting. I don't know how much longer, but I'm still fighting a struggle, which is to make cinema alive and not just make another film.

~Agnes Varda

When I started I did not know I wanted to be a filmmaker. I started - I made a film. Then when I finished I said, Oh my god it's so beautiful - I should be a filmmaker!

~Agnes Varda

I wanted to speak strongly about feminism in my life, since it's been a struggle.

~Agnes Varda

Good cinema is good cinema. It makes you feel like you need to work. Just yesterday I saw a good film, but even if I'd seen a bad one, I'd feel, "Oh my god, what a bad job, I can do better."

~Agnes Varda

I didn't go to film school. I was never an assistant or trainee on a film. I had not seen all those cameras. So I think it gave me a lot of freedom.

~Agnes Varda

Gleaning is getting things that are abandoned. I did not abandon my early pictures, my photos, my early films. It's just going through my body of work as something I can pick from.

~Agnes Varda

It's nice to think that we have in ourselves the energy. It's somewhere, but it's sleeping sometimes. I try to wake it up when I need it.

~Agnes Varda

I'm trying to capture something more fragile than a regular story. I love what people bring me.

~Agnes Varda

I think people should be different. I love people who don't go by the rule that you have to be careful because you're old, you have to do this and that, you have to eat this and that.

~Agnes Varda

Humor is such a strong weapon, such a strong answer.

~Agnes Varda

I was nineteen and I put a bowl on and I said, Cut around! Because it was not the fashion at the time when I did that hairdo - and I kept it all my life!

~Agnes Varda

I hated myself totally white. So now I cheat. It's my white hair, and I put color there. My grandson says I'm punk.

~Agnes Varda

It's interesting work for me to tell my life, as a possibility for other people to relate it to themselves - not so much to learn about me.

~Agnes Varda

I think we need to have a nest of something which is family.

~Agnes Varda

I had a world. I don't think I had a career. I made films.

~Agnes Varda

Society is so slow. A feminist is a bore.

~Agnes Varda

To share a lot of ideas - not ideas - emotions, a way of looking at people, a way of looking at life. If it can be shared, it means there is a common denominator.

~Agnes Varda

To change history is very slow. The first two times I came to the States - black people didn't have the right to vote.

~Agnes Varda

My company is called Ciné-Tamaris, which is rosemary. That's my speed. Hot water and herb.

~Agnes Varda

People think you are an orphan when you are a child, and don't believe that old people can feel that they are orphans.

~Agnes Varda

The freedom he gave himself to work and change shape and change ideas and work all the time with joy, the joy of painting was in [Publo] Picasso, which I found beautiful.

~Agnes Varda

You have to invent life.

~Agnes Varda

I had flops, I had success.

~Agnes Varda

I don't believe in inspiration that arrives like a bolt from the blue ... It seems to me that the more motivated I am by what I film, the more objectively I film.

~Agnes Varda

I try to do nothing. I drink rosemary when I have a lot of work to do. People take coffee, they take speed, whatever. I take rosemary.

~Agnes Varda

I've always been like this - trying to find adventure where it's still in its first Ālan - the first spring.

~Agnes Varda

You have to be strong to be a carpenter, maybe, but the director of a film doesn't need to have muscles.

~Agnes Varda

I'm missing some people, you know, and this is not nostalgia. I miss them. This is melancholy.

~Agnes Varda

You know, an hour and fifty-four minutes is too much for audiences. They get nervous.

~Agnes Varda

Nostalgia doesn't make sense, because it's like bringing the memories back to be a special part of my day or to be part of my week. And I'm inside my memories the same way I'm inside my everyday life.

~Agnes Varda

I don't watch my own films. There is little time; I'd rather see another film.

~Agnes Varda

It's a way of living, cinema. And I see my family, I do this and that, I travel. It's a long process to let it happen.

~Agnes Varda

I live in cinema. I feel I've lived here forever.

~Agnes Varda

I was a photographer first. I worked alone. I did it my way as much as I could. I have been sort of courageous about doing things, because I didn't think I should do less than my brothers.

~Agnes Varda

[Pablo] Picasso really changed my life. It's strange to say so, but I

started to see some Picasso paintings very early. I was very young, and he was not so much known.

~Agnes Varda

It's peaceful to think about the family as a group. I totally believe in extended families.

~Agnes Varda

I cannot say something different to one person and then another.

~Agnes Varda

I think I got people confidence because I was not looking at them like insects that I would film.

~Agnes Varda

I'd been educated stupidly, I knew nothing about nothing, that's part of being shy.

~Agnes Varda

If you know nothing, it could be like an enemy in a way. I think that's the way I felt when I was young.

~Agnes Varda

Sometimes I feel sad, but this is not nostalgia, because I don't want time to come back.

~Agnes Varda

I'm not nostalgic. My memories are back here in my mind.

~Agnes Varda

I made a braid because Chinese old people, they say that the God will take you by the hair to join you with - but God didn't take me, so I cut the braid.

~Agnes Varda

I just didn't see films when I was young. I was stupid and naïve. Maybe I wouldn't have made films if I had seen lots of others; maybe it would have stopped me.

~Agnes Varda

I waited for each film to become important for me. If I had no ideas for a film, I didn't do a film. So I made not that many films for fifty-four years of working.

~Agnes Varda

I've changed my approach to people and to filming because of the new equipment, which is important.

~Agnes Varda

I thought, If I'm an ancestor and grandmother when I'm twenty-five, I should go peacefully to the real time when I'm an ancestor and a grandmother.

~Agnes Varda

I have respect for literature. If he found the words, if she found the words - this is a book!

~Agnes Varda

The first exhibition [Pablo Picasso] was organized by the communist party - because of his position during the war and all that.

~Agnes Varda

Some people meet each other again only when I'm there!

~Agnes Varda

At that time, when I started, in the '50s, cinema was very classical in its aims.

~Agnes Varda



Sometimes I want to work with a DP, sometimes I want to work myself. I go to 35mm, 16mm, it's all the same, but it depends on what you want to tell and what are the tools you need.

~Agnes Varda

If I was tall and blonde, I might have been a dancer or singer.

~Agnes Varda

The boundaries between contemporary art and cinema are so rigid. It's unbelievable. The film critics don't know my artwork and the art world doesn't know my films.

~Agnes Varda

Sometimes I say, If I had seen some masterpieces, maybe I wouldn't have dared start. I started very - not innocent, but naïve in a way.

~Agnes Varda

It's a way of living, sharing things with people who work with me, and they seem to enjoy it.

~Agnes Varda

I should say nothing! I'm through with it! I hate to repeat myself all the time.

~Agnes Varda

The mirror is the tool of the one who wants to do a self-portrait. And if you want to make a photo you need a mirror.

~Agnes Varda

I quit seeing some people who were saying bad things about women; I don't even want to meet them or see them.

~Agnes Varda

People like my films. They understand me through my films; it's like a

connection that has been established between all my work and myself and the audience and the viewer.

~Agnes Varda

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