

Berenice Abbott

Quotes

*Photography, Photographer, Mean, Art, World, Real, Past, Eye, People,
Cameras, Philosophy, Years, Cities, Needs, Reality, Girl, Nice, Alive,
Documentaries, Fall*

I didn't decide to be a photographer; I just happened to fall into it.

~Berenice Abbott

Photography can only represent the present. Once photographed, the subject becomes part of the past.

~Berenice Abbott

Photography doesn't teach you to express your emotions; it teaches you how to see.

~Berenice Abbott

What the human eye observes casually and incuriously, the eye of the camera (the lens) notes with relentless fidelity.

~Berenice Abbott

Photography helps people to see.

~Berenice Abbott

I am so fascinated with this century it will help keep me alive. I'll be there until the last minute, fighting.

~Berenice Abbott

Like every other means of expression, photography, if it is to be utterly honest and direct, should be related to the life of the times - the pulse of today.

~Berenice Abbott

There are many teachers who could ruin you. Before you know it you could be a pale copy of this teacher or that teacher. You have to evolve on your own.

~Berenice Abbott

Photography can never grow up if it imitates some other medium. It has to walk alone; it has to be itself.

~Berenice Abbott

Some people are still unaware that reality contains unparalleled beauties. The fantastic and unexpected, the ever-changing and renewing is nowhere so exemplified as in real life itself.

~Berenice Abbott

Imagine a world without photography, one could only imagine.

~Berenice Abbott

Pictures are wasted unless the motive power which impelled you to action is strong and stirring.

~Berenice Abbott

The challenge for me has first been to see things as they are, whether a portrait, a city street, or a bouncing ball. In a word, I have tried to be objective.

~Berenice Abbott

I'm not a nice girl; I'm a photographer. (On being told by a Federal Art Project official, after she photographed the Bowery, that a nice girl should not go into such neighborhoods)

~Berenice Abbott

The camera is no more an instrument of preservation, the image is.

~Berenice Abbott

The more you do, the more you realize there is to do, what a vast object the metropolis is, and how the work of photographing could go on forever.

~Berenice Abbott

The art is in selecting what is worthwhile to take the trouble about.

~Berenice Abbott

The photograph may be presented as finely and artistically as you will; but to merit serious consideration, must be directly connected with the world we live in.

~Berenice Abbott

The photographer is the contemporary being par excellence; through his eyes the now becomes the past.

~Berenice Abbott

Photography was the medium preeminently qualified to unite art with science. Photography was born in the years which ushered in the scientific age, an offspring of both science and art.

~Berenice Abbott

The lens freezes time and space in what may be an optical slavery or, contrarily, the crystallization of meaning. The limits of the lens' vision are esthetically often a virtue.

~Berenice Abbott

I think the important decision for a photographer is to choose a subject that intensely interests him or her.

~Berenice Abbott

I'm not a nice girl. I'm a photographer.

~Berenice Abbott

Actually, documentary pictures include every subject in the world - good, bad, indifferent. I have yet to see a fine photograph which is not a good document.

~Berenice Abbott

You scientists are the worst photographers in the world and you need the best photographers in the world and I'm the one to do it.

~Berenice Abbott

Abstraction in photography is ridiculous, and is only an imitation of painting. We stopped imitating painters a hundred years ago, so to imitate them in this day and age is laughable.

~Berenice Abbott

Today we are confronted with reality on the vastest scale mankind has known and this puts a greater responsibility on the photographer.

~Berenice Abbott

Self-conscious artiness is fatal, but it certainly would not hurt to study composition in general. Having a basic understanding of composition would help construct a better organized image.

~Berenice Abbott

What we need of equipment is this: let it possess as good a structure as the real-life content that surrounds us. We need more simplifications to free us for seeing.

~Berenice Abbott

I haven't seen too many images that have impressed me!

~Berenice Abbott

I have yet to see a fine photograph which is not a good document.

~Berenice Abbott

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