

Diane Arbus

Quotes

*Photography, Photographer, Mean, People, Thinking, Inspirational, Cameras,
Crazy, Way, Life, Photograph, They Said, Reality, Trying, Fall, Believe,
Character, Said, Happiness, Beautiful*

Regardless of how you feel inside, always try to look like a winner. Even if you are behind, a sustained look of control and confidence can give you a mental edge that results in victory.

~Diane Arbus

The world is full of fictional characters looking for their stories

~Diane Arbus

A photograph is a secret about a secret. The more it tells you the less you know.

~Diane Arbus

Taking pictures is like tiptoeing into the kitchen late at night and stealing Oreo cookies.

~Diane Arbus

I really believe there are things nobody would see if I didn't photograph them.

~Diane Arbus

Most people go through life dreading they'll have a traumatic experience. Freaks were born with their trauma. They've already passed their test in life. They're aristocrats.

~Diane Arbus

I always thought of photography as a naughty thing to do - that was one of my favorite things about it, and when I first did it, I felt very perverse.

~Diane Arbus

Take pictures of what you fear.

~Diane Arbus

I work from awkwardness. By that I mean I don't like to arrange things. If I stand in front of something, instead of arranging it, I arrange myself.

~Diane Arbus

I tend to think of the act of photographing, generally speaking, as an adventure. My favorite thing is to go where I've never been.

~Diane Arbus

My favorite thing is to go where I've never been.

~Diane Arbus

Nothing is ever the same as they said it was. It's what I've never seen before that I recognize.

~Diane Arbus

We've all got an identity. You can't avoid it. It's what's left when you take everything else away.

~Diane Arbus

Ladies and Gentlemen, take my advice, pull down your pants and slide on the ice.

~Diane Arbus

Photography was a license to go wherever I wanted and to do what I wanted to do.

~Diane Arbus

I never have taken a picture I've intended. They're always better or worse.

~Diane Arbus

The world can only be grasped by action, not by contemplation. The hand is the cutting edge of the mind.

~Diane Arbus

There's a quality of legend about freaks. Like a person in a fairy tale

who stops you and demands that you answer a riddle.

~Diane Arbus

There's a kind of power thing about the camera. I mean everyone knows you've got some edge. You're carrying some magic which does something to them. It fixes them in a way.

~Diane Arbus

For me, the subject of the picture is always more important than the picture.

~Diane Arbus

Love involves a peculiar unfathomable combination of understanding and misunderstanding.

~Diane Arbus

The thing that's important to know is that you never know. You're always sort of feeling your way.

~Diane Arbus

Nothing is ever the same as they said it was.

~Diane Arbus

Everybody has that thing where they need to look one way but they come out looking another way and that's what people observe.

~Diane Arbus

One of the risks of appearing in public is the likelihood of being photographed.

~Diane Arbus

Lately I've been struck with how I really love what you can't see in a photograph. An actual physical darkness. And it's very thrilling for me to see darkness again.

~Diane Arbus

If you scrutinize reality closely enough, if in some way you really, really get to it, it becomes fantastic.

~Diane Arbus

If I didn't have a camera, the things I do would be crazy.

~Diane Arbus

It's always seemed to me that photography tends to deal with facts whereas film tends to deal with fiction.

~Diane Arbus

I think all families are creepy in a way.

~Diane Arbus

Shoot for the secrets, develop for the surprises

~Diane Arbus

I'm very little drawn to photographing people that are known or even subjects that are known. They fascinate me when I've barely heard of them.

~Diane Arbus

I mean, it's very subtle and a little embarrassing to me, but I really believe there are things which nobody would see unless I photographed them.

~Diane Arbus

I think the most beautiful inventions are the ones you don't think of.

~Diane Arbus

One thing I would never photograph is a dog lying in the mud.

~Diane Arbus

Nudists are fond of saying that when you come right down to it everyone is alike, and, again, that when you come right down to it everyone is different.

~Diane Arbus

I mean, if you've ever spoken to someone with two heads, you know they know something you don't.

~Diane Arbus

You see someone on the street, and essentially what you notice about them is the flaw.

~Diane Arbus

These are characters in a fairy tale for grown-ups. Wouldn't it be lovely? Yes.

~Diane Arbus

One thing that struck me early is that you don't put into a photograph what's going to come out. Or, vice versa, what comes out is not what you put in.

~Diane Arbus

Everything is so superb and breathtaking. I am creeping forward on my belly like they do in war movies.

~Diane Arbus

The camera is a kind of license.

~Diane Arbus

The discouragement masquerades as the impossibility.

~Diane Arbus

The more specific you are, the more general it'll be.

~Diane Arbus

What I'm trying to describe is that it's impossible to get out of your skin into somebody else's.... That somebody else's tragedy is not the same as your own.

~Diane Arbus

The camera is cruel, so I try to be as good as I can to make things even.

~Diane Arbus

Most people go through life dreading they'll have a traumatic experience.

~Diane Arbus

And the revelation was a little like what saints receive on mountains - a further chapter in the history of the mystery.

~Diane Arbus

The condition of photographing is maybe the condition of being on the brink of conversion to anything.

~Diane Arbus

...I would never choose a subject for what it means to me. I choose a subject and then what I feel about it, what it means, begins to unfold.

~Diane Arbus

[Our self-image is] that gap between intention and effect

~Diane Arbus

I think it does, a little, hurt to be photographed.

~Diane Arbus

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