

# Dorothea Lange

## Quotes

*Photography, People, Life, Photographer, Cameras, Eye, Mind, Necks, Country,  
I Believe, Looks, Photograph, Over You, Inspirational, Believe, Objects, Art Is,  
Effort, Consequence, Humans*

Photography takes an instant out of time, altering life by holding it still.

~Dorothea Lange

The camera is an instrument that teaches people how to see without a camera.

~Dorothea Lange

To know ahead of time what you're looking for means you're then only photographing your own preconceptions, which is very limiting, and often false.

~Dorothea Lange

To me, beauty appears when one feels deeply, and art is an act of total attention.

~Dorothea Lange

You know there are moments such as these when time stands still and all you do is hold your breath and hope it will wait for you.

~Dorothea Lange

Pick a theme and work it to exhaustion... the subject must be something you truly love or truly hate.

~Dorothea Lange

One should really use the camera as though tomorrow you'd be stricken blind.

~Dorothea Lange

Seeing is more than a physiological phenomenon... We see not only with our eyes but with all that we are and all that our culture is. The artist is a professional see-er.

~Dorothea Lange

The good photograph is not the object, the consequences of the

photograph are the objects.

~Dorothea Lange

Life, for people, begins to crumble on the edges; they don't realize it.

~Dorothea Lange

A documentary photograph is not a factual photograph.

~Dorothea Lange

I believe that what we call beautiful is generally a by-product.

~Dorothea Lange

The words that come direct from the people are the greatest. If you substitute one out of your own vocabulary, it disappears before your eyes.

~Dorothea Lange

No country has ever closely scrutinized itself visually ... I know what we could make of it if people only thought we could dare look at ourselves.

~Dorothea Lange

I realize more and more what it takes to be a really good photographer. You go in over your head, not just up to your neck.

~Dorothea Lange

We know by now how to photograph poor people. What we don't know is how to photograph affluence - whose other face is poverty.

~Dorothea Lange

Bring the viewer to your side, include him in your thought. He is not a bystander. You have the power to increase his perceptions and conceptions.

~Dorothea Lange

One should really use the camera as though tomorrow you'd be stricken blind. To live a visual life is an enormous undertaking, practically unattainable. I have only touched it, just touched it.

~Dorothea Lange

While there is perhaps a province in which the photograph can tell us nothing more than what we see with our own eyes, there is another in which it proves to us how little our eyes permit us to see.

~Dorothea Lange

The visual life is an enormous undertaking, practically unattainable.

~Dorothea Lange

It is not enough to photograph the obviously picturesque.

~Dorothea Lange

Photographers stop photographing a subject too soon before they have exhausted the possibilities.

~Dorothea Lange

... it came to me that what I had to do was to take pictures and concentrate upon people, only people, all kinds of people, people who paid me and people who didn't.

~Dorothea Lange

Artists are controlled by the life that beats in them, like the ocean beats on the shore.

~Dorothea Lange

Surefire things are deadening to the human spirit.

~Dorothea Lange

Photography is a lot like telling a large predatory cat what to do-while an audience of people you can't see watches you.

~Dorothea Lange

It is no accident that the photographer becomes a photographer any more than the lion tamer becomes a lion tamer.

~Dorothea Lange

I believe in living with the camera, and not using the camera.

~Dorothea Lange

go in over your head, not just up to your neck.

~Dorothea Lange

I trust my instincts. I don't distrust them. They haven't led me astray. It's when I've made up my mind to be efficient that is when I have gone wrong.

~Dorothea Lange

Photography today appears to be in a state of flight... The familiar is made strange, the unfamiliar grotesque. The amateur forces his Sundays into a series of unnatural poses.

~Dorothea Lange

I had to get my camera to register things that were more important than how poor they were--their pride, their strength, their spirit.

~Dorothea Lange

Being disabled gave me an immense advantage. People are kinder to you. It puts you on a different level than if you go into a situation whole and secure.

~Dorothea Lange

Ours is a time of the machine, and ours is a need to know that the machine can be put to creative human effort. If not, the machine can destroy us.

~Dorothea Lange

That frame of mind that you need to make fine pictures of a very wonderful subject, you cannot do it by not being lost yourself.

~Dorothea Lange

No country has ever closely scrutinized itself visually.

~Dorothea Lange

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