

Frederick Sommer Quotes

*Photography, Photographer, Art, Reality, Ideas, Way, Chance, Elegance,
Vision, Vermeer, Found, Stones, Dream, Acceptance, Fields, Arbitrary,
Conditions, Would Be, Dimensions, Choices*

Life itself is not the reality. We are the ones who put life into stones and pebbles.

~Frederick Sommer

The Art of Vermeer must have been there on the morning of creation.

~Frederick Sommer

My photographs are not pure: they are a seething wealth of imperfection.

~Frederick Sommer

Ideas and thoughts collide and sort themselves out in these fruitful collisions.

~Frederick Sommer

Art is not arbitrary. A fine painting is not there by accident; it is not arrived at by chance. We are sensitive to tonalities.

~Frederick Sommer

The smallest modification of tonality affects structure. Some things have to be rather large, but elegance is the presentation of things in their minimum dimensions.

~Frederick Sommer

The coherent way of investigating any field is to examine its possible relatedness to other things.

~Frederick Sommer

We work for that part of our vision which is uncompleted.

~Frederick Sommer

The field of action of a photograph should be that chessboard of the heart and mind upon which poetry and art have always operated

~Frederick Sommer

Choice and chance structure art and nature.

~Frederick Sommer

Art accepts what it finds.

~Frederick Sommer

Photography is a distributive act leading to a privileged condition.

~Frederick Sommer

Art and accident are one.

~Frederick Sommer

Poetic and speculative photographs can result if one works carefully and accurately, yet letting chance relationships have full play.

~Frederick Sommer

Some speak of a return to nature, I wonder where they could have been?

~Frederick Sommer

The only way to understand something is to be confronted by something that is difficult to understand.

~Frederick Sommer

In total acceptance, almost everything becomes a revelation.

~Frederick Sommer

Art is the splendor of reality before everything has become meaning.

~Frederick Sommer

Words represent images: nothing can be said for which there is no image.

~Frederick Sommer

Ideas and art are the possibility of an answer tomorrow.

~Frederick Sommer

Reality is greater than our dreams.

~Frederick Sommer

If I could find them (assemblages) in nature I would photograph them. I make them because through photography I have a knowledge of things that can't be found.

~Frederick Sommer

Everything is shared by everything else; there are no discontinuities.

~Frederick Sommer

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