

Garry Winogrand Quotes

*Photography, Thinking, Looks, Photograph, Photographer, Interesting, People,
Cameras, Knows, Way, Trying, World, Teaching, Mean, Ideas, Want, Stills, Art,
Two, Talking*

No one moment is most important. Any moment can be something.

~Garry Winogrand

Sometimes I feel like . . . the world is a place I bought a ticket to. It's a big show for me, as if it wouldn't happen if I wasn't there with a camera.

~Garry Winogrand

Photography is about finding out what can happen in the frame. When you put four edges around some facts, you change those facts.

~Garry Winogrand

Photography is not about the thing photographed. It is about how that thing looks photographed.

~Garry Winogrand

You have a lifetime to learn technique. But I can teach you what is more important than technique, how to see; learn that and all you have to do afterwards is press the shutter.

~Garry Winogrand

I don't have anything to say in any picture. My only interest in photography is to see what something looks like as a photograph. I have no preconceptions.

~Garry Winogrand

A photograph is the illusion of a literal description of how the camera 'saw' a piece of time and space.

~Garry Winogrand

The photograph should be more interesting or more beautiful than what was photographed

~Garry Winogrand

I photograph to find out what something will look like photographed.

~Garry Winogrand

Photographers mistake the emotion they feel while taking the photo as a judgment that the photograph is good

~Garry Winogrand

For me the true business of photography is to capture a bit of reality (whatever that is) on film...if, later, the reality means something to someone else, so much the better.

~Garry Winogrand

I don't know if all the women in the photographs are beautiful, but I do know that the women are beautiful in the photographs.

~Garry Winogrand

I photograph to see what the world looks like in photographs.

~Garry Winogrand

Every photograph is a battle of form versus content.

~Garry Winogrand

I get totally out of myself. It's the closest I come to not existing, I think, which is the best - which is to me attractive.

~Garry Winogrand

When the woman is attractive, is it an interesting picture, or is it the woman? I had a lot of headaches with that, which was why it was interesting. I don't think I always got it straight.

~Garry Winogrand

The world isn't tidy; it's a mess. I don't try to make it neat.

~Garry Winogrand

Great photography is always on the edge of failure.

~Garry Winogrand

I photograph what interests me. I'm not saying anything different.

~Garry Winogrand

When I'm photographing I see life.

~Garry Winogrand

If I saw something in my viewfinder that looked familiar to me, I would do something to shake it up.

~Garry Winogrand

There is nothing as mysterious as a fact clearly described.

~Garry Winogrand

There are things I photograph because I'm interested in those things.

~Garry Winogrand

What if I said that every photograph I made was set up? From the photograph, you can't prove otherwise. You don't know anything from the photograph about how it was made, really.

~Garry Winogrand

I have a burning desire to see what things look like photographed by me.

~Garry Winogrand

A photograph can look any way.

~Garry Winogrand

Sometimes photographers mistake emotion for what makes a great street photograph.

~Garry Winogrand

You see something happening and you bang away at it. Either you get what you saw or you get something else--and whichever is better you print.

~Garry Winogrand

Cameras always were seductive. And then a darkroom became available, and that's when I stopped doing anything else.

~Garry Winogrand

Photos have no narrative content. They only describe light on surface.

~Garry Winogrand

You've got to deal with how photographs look, what's there, not how they're made.

~Garry Winogrand

I sometimes think I'm a mechanic. I just take pictures.

~Garry Winogrand

Frame in terms of what you want to have in the picture, not about making a nice picture, that anybody can do.

~Garry Winogrand

There is no special way a photograph should look.

~Garry Winogrand

If you didn't take the picture, you weren't there.

~Garry Winogrand

There's no way a photograph has to look... in a sense. There are no formal rules of design that can apply.

~Garry Winogrand

The photo is a thing in itself. And that's what still photography is all

about.

~Garry Winogrand

There's an arbitrary idea that the horizontal edge in a frame has to be the point of reference.

~Garry Winogrand

Teaching doesn't relate to photographing, at least not for me.

~Garry Winogrand

I said the photograph isn't what was photographed, it's something else. It's about transformation. And that's what it is.

~Garry Winogrand

Teaching is only interesting because you struggle with trying to talk about photographs, photographs that work, you see.

~Garry Winogrand

What you photograph is responsible for how a photograph looks - the form, the design, whatever word you want to use.

~Garry Winogrand

The only thing that happens when I'm teaching is that I hope there are some students out there in the class who will ask questions.

~Garry Winogrand

All things are photographable.

~Garry Winogrand

There are things I back off from trying to talk about, you know. Particularly my own work. Also, there may be things better left unsaid. At times I'd much rather talk about other (people's) work.

~Garry Winogrand

I think that there isn't a photograph in the world that has any narrative ability... They do not tell stories - they show you what something looks like. To a camera.

~Garry Winogrand

At times I'd much rather talk about other work.

~Garry Winogrand

You're talking about meaning. I want to talk about the picture.

~Garry Winogrand

There are no photographs while I'm reloading .

~Garry Winogrand

The only thing that's difficult is reloading when things are happening. Can you get it done fast enough?

~Garry Winogrand

It's very easy to make successful photographs - it's very easy.

~Garry Winogrand

Nobody sold prints then and prices didn't mean anything. In terms of earning your living, it was a joke.

~Garry Winogrand

The contest between form and content is what, is what art is about - it's art history. That's what basically everybody has ever contended with. The problem is uniquely complex in still photography.

~Garry Winogrand

If you ever watch children play - what do you observe when you watch children play? You know, they're dead serious. They're not on vacation.

~Garry Winogrand

Now and then I'll get a student who asks a question that puts me up against the wall and maybe by the end of the semester I can begin to deal with the question.

~Garry Winogrand

I never saw a pyramid, but I've seen photographs; I know what a pyramid or a sphinx looks like. There are pictures that do that, but they satisfy a different kind of interest.

~Garry Winogrand

If you run into a monkey in some idiot context, automatically you've got a very real problem taking place in the photograph.

~Garry Winogrand

If I photograph you I don't have you, I have a photograph of you. It's got its own thing. That's really what photography, still photography, is about.

~Garry Winogrand

I'm pretty fast with a camera when I have to be. However, I think it's irrelevant.

~Garry Winogrand

I don't think time is involved in how the thing is made.

~Garry Winogrand

Two people could look at the same flowers and feel differently about them. Why not? I'm not making ads. I couldn't care less.

~Garry Winogrand

You don't solve anything ever, really. You simply state a problem which, when you're lucky, gives you some idea of what possible problems you can - it indicates, you know, your future headaches.

~Garry Winogrand

Everybody's entitled to their own experience.

~Garry Winogrand

Actually, the animal pictures came about in a funny way.

~Garry Winogrand

You just go through a certain kind of drudgery every time you have to look for something. I've got certain things grouped by now, but there's a drudgery in finding them. There's always stuff missing.

~Garry Winogrand

I don't really have any faith in anybody enjoying photographs in a large enough sense to matter. I think it's all about finances, on one side.

~Garry Winogrand

Every photograph could be set up. If one could imagine it, one could set it up. The whole discussion is a way of not talking about photographs.

~Garry Winogrand

It's got to do with the contention between content and form. Invariably that's what's responsible for its energies, its tensions, its being interesting or not.

~Garry Winogrand

Certainly, you know, you can always learn from some - from somebody else's - from some intelligence. I think. I hope.

~Garry Winogrand

I have boxes of pictures that nothing is ever going to happen to. Even Public Relations. I mean, I was going to events long before, and I still am.

~Garry Winogrand

Cameras intrigued me.

~Garry Winogrand

I enjoyed it [commercial work] until I stopped. You could travel and get around. I can't really explain why, I just didn't want to do it anymore.

~Garry Winogrand

There's all kinds of people teaching who don't do anything worth a nickel. Likewise in advertising.

~Garry Winogrand

I don't think of it as difficult. It would be difficult if I were carrying something heavy, but I carry Leicas. You can't talk about it that way. I'm not operating a shovel and getting tired.

~Garry Winogrand

I was able to work with two heads. If anything, doing ads and other commercial work were at least exercises in discipline.

~Garry Winogrand

I'm a New Yorker. Matter of fact, the more I'm in places like Texas and California, the more I know I'm a New Yorker. I have no confusions. About that.

~Garry Winogrand

I'm living in Los Angeles for a couple of years. I've been a gypsy for quite a while. It'll come to an end. I'm going to come back to New York.

~Garry Winogrand

Los Angeles has interested me for a long time. I was in Texas for five years, for the same reason. I wanted to photograph there.

~Garry Winogrand

I may very well move in. I just don't know. I can't sit here and know what pictures I'm going to take.

~Garry Winogrand

It's a lot of work organizing something, whether it's a show or a book, and I don't want to do it every day.

~Garry Winogrand

In terms of content, you can make a problem for yourself, I mean, make the contest difficult, let's say, with certain subject matter that is inherently dramatic.

~Garry Winogrand

I don't have anything to say in any picture.

~Garry Winogrand

I don't care how they think of it. Some of these people are acquiring some very good pictures by a lot of different photographers.

~Garry Winogrand

I have no idea what's going to happen. Who knows - if they can't afford to buy a boat, maybe they buy a print. Who knows what happens with their buck?

~Garry Winogrand

I think there's some stuff that's at least photographically interesting. There are things I back off from trying to talk about.

~Garry Winogrand

Aside from women, I don't know. My work doesn't function the way Robert Frank's did.

~Garry Winogrand

For me anyway when a photograph is interesting, it's interesting because of the kind of photographic problem it states - which has to do with the contest between content and form.

~Garry Winogrand

You've got a lot going for you, you see. By just describing well with it, something happens.

~Garry Winogrand

My only interest in photographing is photography.

~Garry Winogrand

There is a transformation, you see, when you just put four edges around it. That changes it. A new world is created.

~Garry Winogrand

There are photographers whose shows I try to make it my business to see, if I'm in the city. There are photographers I have no interest in at all.

~Garry Winogrand

The museums want large crowds coming to the shows - it's the same thing. It's hype. Absolutely. But there's nothing evil about it.

~Garry Winogrand

I'm trying to learn more and more about what's possible.

~Garry Winogrand

I have no expectations. None at all.

~Garry Winogrand

I felt that from my end, I should deal with the thing itself, which is the event. I pretty much functioned like the media itself.

~Garry Winogrand

At times people in the press were also useful to me.

~Garry Winogrand

You know, you get into the business of commercial photography, and that's all you do is photograph what you know. That's what you're hired for.

~Garry Winogrand

It was interesting; it's an interesting photographic problem [those demonstrations in the late Sixties]. But if I was doing it as a job, I think I'd have to get paid extra.

~Garry Winogrand

My intention is to make interesting photographs. That's it, in the end. I don't make it up. Let's say it's a world I never made. That's what was there to deal with.

~Garry Winogrand

I've goofed, and there's been something interesting, but I haven't made use of it. It just doesn't interest me.

~Garry Winogrand

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