

James Nachtwey

Quotes

*Photography, War, People, Jobs, Ideas, Powerful, Needs, Grief, Important, Half,
Political, Animal, Honest, Military, Inspiration, Years, Truth Is, Believe, Paris,
Lying*

I have been a witness, and these pictures are my testimony. The events I have recorded should not be forgotten and must not be repeated.

~James Nachtwey

For me, the strength of photography lies in its ability to evoke humanity. If war is an attempt to negate humanity, then photography can be perceived as the opposite of war.

~James Nachtwey

There is a job to be done to record the truth. I want to wake people up!

~James Nachtwey

I became a photographer in order to be a war photographer, and a photographer involved in what I thought were critical social issues. From the very beginning this was my goal.

~James Nachtwey

You are never freer than in that moment when you decide to expose yourself to sniper fire.

~James Nachtwey

If you want to connect with people who are in distress and great grief and scared, you need to do it in a certain way. I move kind of slow. I talk kind of slow. I let them know that I respect them.

~James Nachtwey

If you make an honest picture of war, it will be an antiwar photograph.

~James Nachtwey

I want my pictures to cut through political abstractions... and make a connection on a human level.

~James Nachtwey

I try to use whatever I know about photography to be of service to the people I'm photographing.

~James Nachtwey

When the truth is spoken, it doesn't need to be adorned. It just needs to be simply stated, and often it only needs to be said once.

~James Nachtwey

The greatest statesmen, philosophers, humanitarians ... have not been able to put an end to war. Why place that demand on photography?

~James Nachtwey

I'm half deaf. I have nerve damage and a constant ringing in both of my ears, and there are certain times and conditions when I can hardly hear at all.

~James Nachtwey

Photojournalists know the horrors of war can only be exposed at close range. Kodak Film.

~James Nachtwey

I don't believe there's any such thing as objective reality. It's only reality as we experience it.

~James Nachtwey

Unfortunately, the world continues, history continues to produce tragedies. And it is very important that they be documented in a humane way, in a compelling way.

~James Nachtwey

Is it possible to put an end to a form of human behavior which has existed throughout history by means of photography?

~James Nachtwey

Photography can be perceived as the opposite of war.

~James Nachtwey

Starvation and disease are the original weapons of mass destruction. When you burn fields and kill animals, people are left vulnerable.

~James Nachtwey

If I can upset people, if I can ruin their day, then I have done my job.

~James Nachtwey

[Photography] puts a human face on issues which, from afar, can appear abstract or ideological or monumental in their global impact.

~James Nachtwey

I used to call myself a war photographer. Now I consider myself as an antiwar photographer.

~James Nachtwey

I don't think tragic situations are necessarily devoid of beauty.

~James Nachtwey

None of the editors I've worked with have ever asked me to pull my punches. They've never asked me to give them anything other than my own interpretation of events.

~James Nachtwey

Do we really need another picture of Paris Hilton or Naomi Campbell?

~James Nachtwey

I began after college, about 1972. I began to teach myself photography. I went to work for a local newspaper for four years as a kind of basic training.

~James Nachtwey

If Im feeling outraged, grief, disbelief, frustration, sympathy, that gets channeled through me and into my pictures and hopefully transmitted to the viewer.

~James Nachtwey

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