

Man Ray Quotes

*Art, Photography, Photograph, Desire, Paint, Dream, Inspiration, Doe, Use,
Ideas, Cameras, Needs, Mind, Creation, Effort, Wish, Creativity, Size, Annoying,
Our Society*

I would photograph an idea rather than an object, a dream rather than an idea.

~Man Ray

Of course, there will always be those who look only at technique, who ask 'how', while others of a more curious nature will ask 'why'. Personally, I have always preferred inspiration to information.

~Man Ray

A camera alone does not make a picture. To make a picture you need a camera, a photographer and above all a subject. It is the subject that determines the interest of the photograph.

~Man Ray

When I saw I was under attack from all sides, I knew I was on the right track.

~Man Ray

My works were designed to amuse, annoy, bewilder, mystify and inspire reflection.

~Man Ray

To me, a painter, if not the most useful, is the least harmful member of our society.

~Man Ray

To create is divine, to reproduce is human.

~Man Ray

Nature does not create works of art. It is we, and the faculty of interpretation peculiar to the human mind, that see art.

~Man Ray

I photograph the things that I do not wish to paint, the things which

already have an existence.

~Man Ray

I have been accused of being a joker. But the most successful art to me involves humor.

~Man Ray

Reality is fabricated out of desire.

~Man Ray

You don't ask a writer what typewriter he uses.

~Man Ray

The streets are full of admirable craftsmen, but so few practical dreamers.

~Man Ray

I believe in the relation between photography and music; And that's my inspiration.

~Man Ray

I do not photograph nature. I photograph my visions.

~Man Ray

There is no progress in art, any more than there is progress in making love.

~Man Ray

Oh, yes, I was a great retoucher. A retoucher is an esthetic surgeon !

~Man Ray

It has never been my object to record my dreams, just the determination to realize them.

~Man Ray

I never knew what I was doing until I was done.

~Man Ray

If the affairs of the world were put in the hands of the screwball artists, it couldn't be in a worse state than it is now !

~Man Ray

Dada cannot live in New York. All New York is dada, and will not tolerate a rival.

~Man Ray

A creator needs only one enthusiast to justify him.

~Man Ray

Just as I work with paints, brushes, and canvas, I work with the light, pieces of glass and chemistry.

~Man Ray

Lipstick is the red badge of courage.

~Man Ray

Personally, I have always preferred inspiration to information.

~Man Ray

All critics should be assassinated.

~Man Ray

If I'd had the nerve, I'd have become a thief or a gangster, but since I didn't, I became a photographer.

~Man Ray

I paint what cannot be photographed, something from the imagination...
I photograph the things I don't want to paint, things that are already in existence.

~Man Ray

I paint what cannot be photographed, that which comes from the imagination or from dreams, or from an unconscious drive.

~Man Ray

Quote me as much as you like; as a matter of fact I don't even mind if you misquote me !

~Man Ray

Speaking of nudes, I have always had a great fondness for this subject, both in my paintings and in my photos, and I must admit, not for purely artistic reasons.

~Man Ray

Is photography an art? There is no point in trying to find out if it is an art. Art is old-fashioned. We need something else.

~Man Ray

One of the satisfactions of a genius is his will-power and obstinacy.

~Man Ray

The tricks of today are the truths of tomorrow.

~Man Ray

An original is a creation motivated by desire.

~Man Ray

A certain amount of contempt for the material employed to express an idea is indispensable to the purest realization of this idea.

~Man Ray

In the same spirit, when the automobile arrived, there were those that declared the horse to be the most perfect form of locomotion.

~Man Ray

An effort impelled by desire must also have an automatic or subconscious energy to aid its realization.

~Man Ray

I have never painted a recent picture.

~Man Ray

Thanks to my effort in the last 40 years, there has been more paper and film wasted.

~Man Ray

I paint when I cannot photograph.

~Man Ray

I am an economic person; I judge the amount of work involved with the amount of worth attained.

~Man Ray

I am not going to be dictated to by the size of the camera. I use everything from an 8 x 10 to a 35-mm. But I don't use these modern cameras which break down all the time !

~Man Ray

I photograph what I do not wish to paint and I paint that which I cannot photograph.

~Man Ray

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