

Nan Goldin

Quotes

*Thinking, People, Want, Years, Fashion, Art, Clothes, Paris, Ideas, Cameras,
Real, Self, Mean, Knows, Important, Heroin, Beautiful, Photography, Female,
Crazy*

I used to think that I could never lose anyone if I photographed them enough. In fact, my pictures show me how much I've lost.

~Nan Goldin

My desire is to preserve the sense of people's lives, to endow them with the strength and beauty I see in them. I want the people in my pictures to stare back.

~Nan Goldin

For me it is not a detachment to take a picture. It's a way of touching somebody - it's a caress! I think that you can actually give people access to their own soul.

~Nan Goldin

I always thought if I photographed anyone or anything enough, I would never lose the person, I would never lose the memory, I would never lose the place. But the pictures show me how much I've lost.

~Nan Goldin

Yes, photography saved my life. Every time I go through something scary, traumatic, I survive by taking pictures.

~Nan Goldin

I knew from a very early age, that what I saw on tv had nothing to do with real life. So I wanted to make a record of real life. That included having a camera with me at all times.

~Nan Goldin

The camera is as much a part of my everyday life as talking or eating or sex.

~Nan Goldin

I just get inspired to take a picture by the beauty and vulnerability of my friends.

~Nan Goldin

My work is mostly about memory. It is very important to me that everybody that I have been close to in my life I make photographs of them.

~Nan Goldin

I think the wrong things are kept private

~Nan Goldin

My work shows the beauty in so many different kinds of people because I never photograph anyone who I don't think is beautiful. I never take an intentionally mean picture.

~Nan Goldin

I usually work really instinctively and it's afterwards that I think about what it means. I don't know consciously that I have these themes that run through my work.

~Nan Goldin

If I want to take a picture, I take it no matter what.

~Nan Goldin

I'm very influenced by a lot of things, but my chief influence is my friends and what I see and what I feel and my own experiences and memory.

~Nan Goldin

You know it's said that you make your own face. So you don't really have a face until you are 30 or your mid-20s. When you are starting to grow up and show your character in your face.

~Nan Goldin

It's so rare to see a woman's sexuality, real female sexuality, either in

the shows or in the clothes.

~Nan Goldin

There are days when everyone in the world looks like a Diane Arbus to me. She's a genius but her work is completely different to mine. But on those days I don't use my camera.

~Nan Goldin

The main thing that I want to say is that I don't think women are at their most beautiful in their adolescence or in their early 20s.

~Nan Goldin

Of course I was wearing make-up, I never went anywhere without red lipstick for 25 years! It was a form of self-preservation for me to continue to wear lipstick even though my face was broken.

~Nan Goldin

I don't even like photography at all. I'm just doing photography until I can do something better.

~Nan Goldin

I like it [Rotterdam] much better than Amsterdam which is too much like a postcard. It's too cute for me. Rotterdam is more real, it's got a stomach.

~Nan Goldin

Plastic surgery is distressingly popular and I feel that the fashion industry has killed tens of thousands of women over the years from anorexia.

~Nan Goldin

I never read theory. I think that was to my benefit.

~Nan Goldin

I think it killed my sister as the times she was living in were so conformist. This is a subject I really want to deal with. I want to start making films about female rage.

~Nan Goldin

I had my first museum showing of my slide show in Rotterdam, in 1983. I love Rotterdam. I love harbour cities in general.

~Nan Goldin

One of the major things I really want to work on now is female rage because that's not dealt with at all - and I have a lot of it.

~Nan Goldin

No place could be less sympathetic to my politics than America.

~Nan Goldin

I never, never photograph someone getting high to sell clothes. I was called, at some point, the person responsible for "heroin chic". I didn't have anything to do with "heroin chic".

~Nan Goldin

I have very healthy strong relationships with women.

~Nan Goldin

I did [heroin] maybe when I was 18 but I got over that pretty quickly.

~Nan Goldin

I've been alone for about eight years and it doesn't bother me.

~Nan Goldin

Each time I spend with Stella McCartney, I like her better. So I was excited to be asked by her.

~Nan Goldin

The thing that drives me most crazy in the world is not to be believed.

~Nan Goldin

My life there[in New York] was almost entirely about gay men for 30 years.

~Nan Goldin

The idea that a fashion photograph could make you cry doesn't happen. And I'm proud to say that my slideshows can make people cry.

~Nan Goldin

As a non-Catholic, and since I was a child, I have been obsessed with the ritual and the beauty of Catholic art. I look at Renaissance art all the time.

~Nan Goldin

My life is more important. At this point in my life I'm alone. I don't think about it a lot.

~Nan Goldin

I don't think I am going to do pictures which are anything like Renaissance art.

~Nan Goldin

I had said that when the first Bush got elected that I would leave the country. And when the second Bush wasn't even elected properly.

~Nan Goldin

I wasn't there [in U.S] when the city was bombed but it seems to have changed my friends.

~Nan Goldin

I also met Dominique Sanda, who I always worshipped.

~Nan Goldin

My work is received more intelligently in Europe.

~Nan Goldin

Usually people just do their own work. But I want to deal with the place and what it means to show in a mental hospital.

~Nan Goldin

I also photographed Maggie Cheung - but these didn't develop into a friendship either.

~Nan Goldin

The only time I went out was to go to bars at night and all the pictures were taken with a flash because there was no light at all. However now I'm very interested in light.

~Nan Goldin

I'm very much interested in water and women in water. I've been photographing that for years although I didn't really know it at the time.

~Nan Goldin

She has that kind of baby face, a very young face. So I was interested in working with Kate [Moss].

~Nan Goldin

That's where I got the idea to paint the walls of the gallery with varied colours [at the Whitechapel show]. I tried to figure out how all these Renaissance paintings manage to work together.

~Nan Goldin

I start to paint my walls. And I'm heavily influenced by films.

~Nan Goldin

[John] Cassavetes, "Killing of a Chinese Booker", "Opening Night" are my favourites.

~Nan Goldin

Gena Rowlands is fabulous.

~Nan Goldin

[I influenced by]the work of early [Michelangelo] Antonioni, Orson Welles and [Carlo] Pasolini, I love [Nicolas Jack] Roeg's film "Performance".

~Nan Goldin

I like Stella [McCartney] a lot - she's a very open and warm person. I don't particularly want to know about her background.

~Nan Goldin

Stella McCartney is [my] big fan.

~Nan Goldin

Now what I like is that other artists know my work and are interested in me or want to collaborate.

~Nan Goldin

Actually, I think what is being shown as beauty in fashion magazines right now has become particularly ugly. This kind of straight, blonde very conservative.

~Nan Goldin

If I do continue to do fashion, I would want to radicalise it.

~Nan Goldin

I don't think of Maria Schneider like idol anymore, because I worshipped her when I was young.

~Nan Goldin

In America, more than half the population are overweight. It's not healthy and I'm not proud of that but I don't hate having a woman's body.

~Nan Goldin

I'm very flattered when people I respect like my work. It's like a dream of a little kid when somebody I idolised likes my work.

~Nan Goldin

The things that I look at include Renaissance art. I'm obsessed with churches and paintings of saints.

~Nan Goldin

I have the freedom of seeing it [churches and paintings of saints] with a non-Catholic eye without the guilt.

~Nan Goldin

No Jews have our own guilt, that's why we have psychiatrists - the Jewish version of a priest.

~Nan Goldin

I love all the Hollywood women. I saw all the films when I was a teenager. Jack Smith's "Flaming Creatures".

~Nan Goldin

In Paris now, when I walk into stores and the shopgirls literally say to me every time, "We don't have anything in your size".

~Nan Goldin

I don't know if Yves St Laurent likes my work but Pierre Bergé does.

~Nan Goldin

I never courted that but it's nice when it's people you respect and they respect your work. It's thrilling.

~Nan Goldin

One of my assistants, a British man, says I should find a platform for [cosmetic industry]. Meanwhile I wear make-up.

~Nan Goldin

American magazines are becoming very patriotic beyond belief to the point that I can't live there any more.

~Nan Goldin

I remember so many girls when I was growing up who hated the way they looked.

~Nan Goldin

It's a hideous feeling to go round shopping and even feel like you are a freak.

~Nan Goldin

I won't show a picture where a person doesn't look beautiful.

~Nan Goldin

I never thought heroin was very chic.

~Nan Goldin

When I started photographing my boyfriend of years ago, Brian, I realised I had no right to photograph other people having sex if I wasn't prepared to take them of myself too

~Nan Goldin

I'm not ashamed of my body and you know everything in the fashion world, if I was vulnerable to it, could drive me crazy. I think it produces so much self-hatred.

~Nan Goldin

I have no ambivalence about myself wearing make-up or designer clothes but I have an enormous ambivalence about what the fashion world has done to women.

~Nan Goldin

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