

# Richard Avedon

## Quotes

*Photography, People, Portraits, Photographer, Cameras, Thinking, Art, Men, Children, Facts, Hate, Real, Ideas, Way, Eye, Reading, Taken, Wish, Mean, Running*

My portraits are more about me than they are about the people I photograph.

~Richard Avedon

All photographs are accurate. None of them is the truth.

~Richard Avedon

To be an artist, you have to nurture the things that most people discard.

~Richard Avedon

Start with a style and you are in chains, start with an idea and you are free.

~Richard Avedon

If each photograph steals a bit of the soul, isn't it possible that I give up pieces of mine every time I take a picture?

~Richard Avedon

I hate cameras. They interfere, they're always in the way. I wish: if I could work with my eyes alone.

~Richard Avedon

The moment an emotion or fact is transformed into a photograph it is no longer a fact but an opinion.

~Richard Avedon

I think all art is about control, the encounter between control and uncontrollable.

~Richard Avedon

A photographic portrait is a picture of someone who knows he is being photographed

~Richard Avedon

Anything is an art if you do it at the level of an art.

~Richard Avedon

i think charm is the ability to be truly interested in other people

~Richard Avedon

People " running from unhappiness, hiding in power " are locked within their reputations, ambitions, beliefs.

~Richard Avedon

Sometimes I think all my pictures are just pictures of me.

~Richard Avedon

I've photographed just about everyone in the world. But what I hope to do is photograph people of accomplishment, not celebrity, and help define the difference once again.

~Richard Avedon

The way someone who's being photographed presents himself to the camera, and the effect of the photographer's response on that presence, is what the making of a portrait is all about.

~Richard Avedon

We all perform. It's what we do for each other all the time, deliberately or unintentionally. It's a way of telling about ourselves in the hope of being recognized as what we'd like to be.--PERFORMANCE

~Richard Avedon

It's not hard being great occasionally. It's difficult to be good consistently.

~Richard Avedon

Just advertising departments with legs and high heels.

~Richard Avedon

I know that the accident of my being a photographer has made my life possible.

~Richard Avedon

Real people move, they bear with them the element of time. It is this fourth dimension of people that I try to capture in a photograph.

~Richard Avedon

Sometimes I think all my pictures are just pictures of me. My concern is...the human predicament; only what I consider the human predicament may simply be my own.

~Richard Avedon

I never wanted to be called an artist. I wanted to be called a photographer.

~Richard Avedon

I believe that you've got to love your work so much that it is all you want to do.

~Richard Avedon

My parents put the New Yorker in my crib. I saw Vogue and Vanity Fair around the house before I could read.

~Richard Avedon

I always prefer to work in the studio. It isolates people from their environment

~Richard Avedon

The pictures have a reality for me that the people don't. It is through the photographs that I know them.

~Richard Avedon

It's in trying to direct the traffic between Artiface [sic] and Candor,

without being run over, that I'm confronted with the questions about photography that matter most to me.

~Richard Avedon

When you pose for a photograph, it's behind a smile that isn't yours. You are angry and hungry and alive. What I value in you is that intensity. I want to make portraits as intense as people.

~Richard Avedon

My photographs don't go below the surface. They don't go below anything. They're readings of the surface. I have great faith in surfaces. A good one is full of clues.

~Richard Avedon

Faces are the ledgers of our experience.

~Richard Avedon

One man's fantasy is another man's job.

~Richard Avedon

I can see myself as a very old man in a terrific wheelchair. Only, I won't be photographing the tree outside my window, the way Steichen did. I'll be photographing other old people.

~Richard Avedon

A portrait isn't a fact but an opinion - an occasion rather than a truth.

~Richard Avedon

I am always stimulated by people. Almost never by ideas.

~Richard Avedon

There is no truth in photography. There is no truth about anyone's person.

~Richard Avedon

He sleeps fastest who sleeps alone.

~Richard Avedon

People, unprotected by their roles, become isolated in beauty and intellect and illness and confusion.

~Richard Avedon

If I could do what I want with my eyes alone, I would be happy.

~Richard Avedon

I see pictures of myself and I always knew that what I was feeling didn't look like that guy in the pictures.

~Richard Avedon

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