Edna St. Vincent Millay

Eva Le Gallienne
Ready for a Close-Up

In much of her work, Berenice Abbott (1898–1991) depicts progressive residents of burgeoning cities. Her portraits feature asymmetrical compositions, dramatic lighting, and unusual poses. They defy conventions and celebrate new ideas about society, art, and identity.

Take a closer look

An adopter of straight photography, Abbott rarely manipulated her negatives. She provided an honest representation of each sitter instead of an idealized image.

In her own words

“The world doesn’t like independent women, why, I don’t know, but I don’t care.”

Who knew?

The artist pictured influential, creative women of her day. These portraits honor Edna St. Vincent Millay, Pulitzer Prize-winning writer and feminist activist, and Eva Le Gallienne, lesbian actress and advocate of noncommercial theater.