

Berenice Abbott

Edna St. Vincent Millay



Eva Le Gallienne



Edna St. Vincent Millay, ca. 1927

Eva Le Gallienne, ca. 1927

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.

Berenice Abbott, *Edna St. Vincent Millay*, ca. 1927; Vintage silver print, 11½ x 9¼ inches; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Gift of Wallace and Wilhelmina Holladay

Berenice Abbott, *Eva Le Gallienne*, ca. 1927; Vintage silver print, 4½ x 6¾ inches; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Gift of Wallace and Wilhelmina Holladay; © Berenice Abbott

