

Edna St. Vincent Millay



Eva Le Gallienne



Edna St. Vincent Millay, ca. 1927

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## 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 9¾ 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

