Search for the Real:
Quotes from Larry Kirkwood

“I like to look at this project as the search for the real.”

“We’re letting the beauty industry and corporate America define what reality is.”

“A woman came up to me and she said, ‘I really need to be in your show... Everybody keeps telling me what a good body I have and how lucky I am... I have cancer, brain cancer.’”

“These [body casts] don’t look like people from Vogue. And they didn’t. And neither do the rest of us.”

“Our culture’s obsessed with keeping up appearances. This takes the form of the image. If the image is right, reality doesn’t make any difference. The image becomes reality.”

“We verify this [ideal] image by making all those who don’t fit it invisible. If you don’t see them, they don’t exist – or at least they’re not worth as much.”

“If you’re going to divide people up, doesn’t it really make more sense to divide them into groups of reliable people and unreliable people?”
“As far as society’s perception of the image – if you’re obsessed with it, what that does is that deflects attention away from the real accomplishments as a human being.”

“We’re not much good to ourselves nor to society if we don’t have any self-confidence and, unfortunately, a lot of these advertisements are aimed right at taking your self-confidence away from you so that you’ll buy their products to try and feel better again.”

“Encouraging body hatred is an extremely lucrative business.”

“Advertising is not a slice of reality.”

“Men wear a size of clothing, women are a size of clothing.”

“And for some odd reason, people don’t accept the fact that we come in a variety of sizes.”

“[T]here are health problems associated with extreme weight. On the other hand, it’s true that many larger people are much healthier than untold numbers of very thin people who practice a wide variety of unhealthy practices.”

“I don’t want to look out here and see everybody looking like the same thing. I mean, it’s just that wouldn’t be interesting at all.”

“We need to quit giving other people permission to define who we are and what we’re worth.”