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A guy who **takes pictures**, as described by his actor buddy

"I just shoot my friends. It's like I'm obsessed with it." Here I am, talking to photographer Ryan McGinley, 26, in his new Chinatown apartment in New York. "I started making skateboarding videos with my friends," Ryan says. "I'd get really into certain sequences—I guess that's when you could say I got interested in capturing a moment and, with that, photography." Though some of Ryan's friends come and go, you can tell he has love for all of them—he photographs them more romantically than exploitatively. He's found a certain success with gallery shows around the world, a book (*The Kids Are Alright*) and the honor of being the youngest person ever to have a solo show at the Whitney Museum of American Art. "I was just very ambitious and put a lot of work into being where I

am today," Ryan says simply. "So when people talk about what a glamorous life I live, I laugh, 'cause I've just been in the studio for a week straight." All this work is paying off, with another book on the way to celebrate his show at the P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center in Queens, opening in June. When I ask if he would, could ever stop taking photos, Ryan yells out, "Nooo way!" Point taken.

—Leo Fitzpatrick



Hey, it's some of Ryan's pictures.