



RYAN MCGINLEY

"Personally I love nudity. It's endlessly fascinating, it can never play itself out," states Ryan McGinley flat out, a few days following his "New Photographs" opening at MOMA's P.S.1 in Queens, New York. "After my show at the Whitney," which marked McGinley as the youngest artist ever to have a solo exhibition at the museum, "I wanted to do something different," he says. Different from documenting life around him—namely the unscripted hi-jinks of his friends—which made up his stellar debut, "The Kids are Alright" at the Whitney Museum. McGinley's latest offering had the photographer loading his friends into a van, carting them to a Brattleborough, Vermont location and letting nature take its course, almost. This time McGinley staged his surroundings, climbing up a tree and carving out branches and limbs to allow his naked subjects a safe space to cavort. The effect is magical, mysterious and much more atmospheric. Though his friends appear to be naked they're no longer the focus but rather a part of the overall image.

McGinley's fresh eye caught the attention of the New York Times

Magazine, landing him a regular gig at the venerable publication. He just completed an underwater portfolio of the United States Olympic swim team that entailed traveling to fifteen states to capture the athletes during their training sessions. "It's the best job I've ever had," he professes. "They really understand what kind of photos I want to make." Getting his start at magazines like *Vice*, *Index* and *The Fader*, getting compared to Nan Goldin and Wolfgang Tillmans, and getting his work out to as wide an audience as possible all make McGinley what he is—an artist with a vision, who "always wants to surprise people." He's had to leave his wild child and more excessive days behind—by his own admission – to become the disciplined photographer he is intent on being. He's also presently at work on a more personal project of collages – nudes of people jumping on trampolines, also culled from his Vermont sojourns.

McGinley's final take on the hugely successful P.S.1 series? "Let's go into the woods, let's get lost in the dark, and the only way we'll find our way out is with the flash." Well, we're glad he made it (out). *Robyn Dutra*