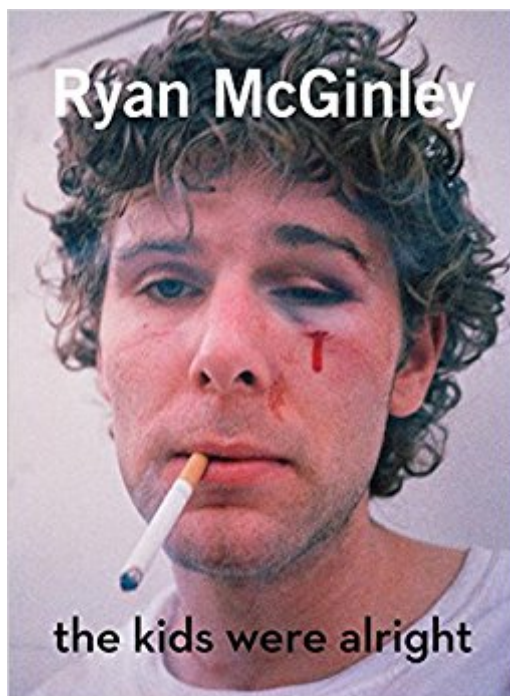


The book was found

# Ryan McGinley: The Kids Were Alright



## Synopsis

The first book to examine Ryan McGinley's raw, visceral portraits of his coterie of friends and artists in downtown New York City. Published to accompany an exhibition at Museum of Contemporary Art Denver, *Ryan McGinley: The Kids Were Alright* focuses on the photographer's early work from 1998 to 2003, the year of his solo exhibition at the Whitney Museum of American Art. These early photographs and Polaroids—many of which have never been exhibited or published—document his friends and collaborators in downtown New York City. In the process, McGinley created a powerful portrait of his generation and their often debauched lifestyle: gritty, daring, and focused on moments of both pleasure and tedium. McGinley's singular ability to capture the mood and emotional depth of a moment is evident even from the earliest years of his career. Curator Nora Burnett Abrams offers the most comprehensive consideration to date of this important work in her essay, and other contributions—including an interview with McGinley and artist Dan Colen and several short reminiscences from many of his subjects and social circle at the time—will provide context and commentary on the more than 100 works in the volume.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Nora Burnett Abrams is a curator at MCA Denver. She has organized solo exhibitions of Paul Sietsema and Adrian Ghenie and major group shows such as *Postscript: Writing After Conceptual Art*. Prior to MCA Denver, she worked at the Museum of Modern Art, the Metropolitan Museum of

Art, and the Grey Art Gallery at NYU.

Love this book

Like spoiled milk

I love Ryan's work especially the early stuff so I thought this would be interesting but this book is mostly very straightforward (polaroid) portraits of friends / acquaintances in the early days - there are a lot of them and personally I couldn't find myself interested enough to go through that many of them. There are also some other early (non polaroid) photos some of which may appeal more to those with gay interest. These all appear to be mostly never before seen photos, but none that really captured the vibe found in his early more famous photos of the NY scene. Not an essential book for me. "Whistle for the Wind" is my favorite recent monograph - I would recommend that over this.

This book is exactly what its title states. Its a look-back and justification of a time in NYC when Ryan (with Dash and Dan) were documenting "city life" on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. The Kids WERE Alright. Some characters survived, some didn't - but the times (and antics) are forever preserved. If you are a "fan" of Brian's early work - the work that got him a solo show at the Whitney - you will LOVE this book. I, for instance, got very emotional looking back at a time that wasn't so easy to digest, as it chronologically bookends the whole September 11th attack on NYC. There WERE other things going on, perhaps during a gilded age. If you had ANY association to NYC at that time, this book is a GREAT look back and time capsule. For the art/photography collector, this book is absolute PERFECTION.

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