

# Ryan McGinley

## Quotes

*People, New York, Art, Brother, Thinking, Cameras, School, Photographer,  
Want, Photography, Giving, Years, Kids, Needs, Growing Up, Mind, Artist,  
Jersey, Mom, Remember*

I didn't have much of a life in crime as a graffiti writer.

~Ryan McGinley

My photographs are a celebration of life, fun and the beautiful. They are a world that doesn't exist. A fantasy. Freedom is real. There are no rules. The life I wish I was living.

~Ryan McGinley

A lot of my close friends have committed suicide or died of heroin overdoses.

~Ryan McGinley

I've been attracted to Kate Moss since I was a teenager.

~Ryan McGinley

It's weird being a photographer because you really have to divorce yourself from the image.

~Ryan McGinley

I don't want to be an artist that gets stuck doing one thing. I don't want to be an artist who people look back at and say, 'His early work was really great.'

~Ryan McGinley

I think the driving force when I moved to New York was the fear of going home with my tail between my legs.

~Ryan McGinley

You find the people that you need to find. There's this gravitational pull.

~Ryan McGinley

A lot of artists need structure.

~Ryan McGinley

Just being friends with people now for over 15 years, you realize what we all came out of. What we came out of was the intense feeling of growing up. It sounds kind of cliché, but it's true.

~Ryan McGinley

A lot of people, even my parents, thought, "Art school, I don't know. We'll support you but the success rate for artists is really slim."

~Ryan McGinley

I put all of my time into art because I couldn't go back to Jersey and work at Starbucks.

~Ryan McGinley

I didn't have to be friends with people who were into pop music.

~Ryan McGinley

Growing up, my room was covered in posters. I was like, "I want to make posters."

~Ryan McGinley

The cool part about New York is that you can do that. You can talk to all the people you admire.

~Ryan McGinley

I'm just a photographer, not a movie star.

~Ryan McGinley

I'm interested in reaching the masses with my work. It's one of my goals.

~Ryan McGinley

I went through a pretty big David Bowie period when I was younger, and that has affected me profoundly in my life and my work.

~Ryan McGinley

There was no luxury. I never got on an airplane until I was 18. We drove everywhere. My dad was like, "Waste not, want not."

~Ryan McGinley

I have absolutely no interest in creating depressing images.

~Ryan McGinley

I was pretty Irish Catholic Jersey, the middle of the line.

~Ryan McGinley

I couldn't wait to come to New York to reinvent myself.

~Ryan McGinley

I was growing up in the suburbs; I was one of eight kids. So I did have a community when I was younger, but all of my brothers and sisters were older.

~Ryan McGinley

The cool thing for me about moving to New York was that I got to create a new family.

~Ryan McGinley

I think a lot about control nowadays, and I really want to let go and just be more in the moment.

~Ryan McGinley

A camera gives you a purpose.

~Ryan McGinley

The thing about being a photographer that's so cool is that you get to participate, but you also get to disappear. The camera is in front of your face all the time.

~Ryan McGinley

Whatever emotions you're going through, you somehow seek out the people that are going through similar emotions or that maybe have something you need.

~Ryan McGinley

What I really believe is that there are no coincidences anymore.

~Ryan McGinley

When I moved to New York, I was still in the closet.

~Ryan McGinley

Everyone started to have a camera. That's when I started to travel outside of New York and go into nature.

~Ryan McGinley

From 8 to 19, I was skateboarding every single day. That was my life. I worked at a skate shop. I watched skate videos.

~Ryan McGinley

Actually, I didn't study photography at first. I went to school for painting my first year, poetry my second year, graphic design my third and fourth year, and photography my fifth.

~Ryan McGinley

The camera gives you some control.

~Ryan McGinley

I'm making the art for me first. I'm making it because these are the pictures I want to see. I'm making pictures that don't yet exist.

~Ryan McGinley

In a lot of ways I look at these old photos, and I don't know if I would have been able to communicate with these people on this level if I didn't have a camera. I think I would still be so shy.

~Ryan McGinley

I was never raised with anybody telling me that gay was bad.

~Ryan McGinley

I'm going to put every aspect of myself out into the world and try to convey it through photography.

~Ryan McGinley

I just remember how excited I was to have a boyfriend and be in love and to document it.

~Ryan McGinley

I spent all of my money on film. I remember I would do these set-design jobs or transcribe or just anything to get, like, a \$100 check and go immediately to Adorama and buy expired film.

~Ryan McGinley

I'm not going to hide behind anything.

~Ryan McGinley

I was never told, "Fags are going to hell." You just didn't talk about it.

~Ryan McGinley

All I do is make photos. It's my life.

~Ryan McGinley

I'm always interested in an atmosphere where dreams and reality mingle on equal terms.

~Ryan McGinley

I was voted most artistic in school.

~Ryan McGinley

I knew my ticket out of the suburbs was art school, so I worked really hard to develop my portfolio and get a scholarship.

~Ryan McGinley

I know that my mind is so A.D.D., and I want instant gratification - and photography can provide me with that - but at some point, I want to make an independent feature.

~Ryan McGinley

Everyone I'm photographing, I feel like I'm remaking a family, in a way. My brothers and sisters are my heroes. So many of my models resemble them.

~Ryan McGinley

### **Related Links:**

- People Quotes
- New York Quotes
- Art Quotes
- Brother Quotes
- Thinking Quotes
- Cameras Quotes
- School Quotes
- Photographer Quotes
- Want Quotes
- Photography Quotes
- Giving Quotes
- Years Quotes
- Kids Quotes
- Needs Quotes
- Growing Up Quotes
- Mind Quotes
- Artist Quotes
- Jersey Quotes
- Mom Quotes
- Remember Quotes