

## Press Release Autumn 2016



# RYAN MCGINLEY YEARBOOK

## A Constellation of Portraits

La Térmica, Málaga  
November 19th to February 4th, 2017

Curated by Alex Brahim & Mario Martín Pareja



Tate, 2012 © Ryan McGinley,  
Courtesy of Team Gallery, New York

The exhibition at La Térmica shows over hundred studio portraits of this serie created by American artist Ryan McGinley.



Ryan McGinley's Birthday, 2016  
© Ryan McGinley.  
Courtesy of Team Gallery, New York

"Everyone always says it helps to picture you all naked to calm my nerves. Well, unfortunately, that's another day at work for me."

"In my fifth year here (Parsons School) I took a class with George Pitts. The class was called "Nudity, Sexuality, and Beauty in Photography." It had such a big influence on me that I've adhered to those three words throughout my entire career."

"When I got that first camera, I got my wings. I started to relate to the world in a new way. It gave me permission to ask, to not be shy, and to step outside of what was accepted. I was addicted. Photography ended up being a combination of all the different majors I had considered. It brought together the color palate of painting, the emotion of poetry, and the balance of design."

"It's romantic as hell what we do. See the beauty and uniqueness in this world. Be a keen observer of life. Photography is about questioning, and the root of the word question is "quest". Keep seeking out whatever it is that excites and inspires you. Make it your quest. Be very open to the idea of chance and surprise. Respect and honor your artistic insanity. If you work hard enough, you'll experience the happy accidents that are the art."

**Ryan McGinley**  
*Parsons Commencement Speech, Fragments, 2014*

# RYAN MCGINLEY. YEARBOOK

La Termica & Contemporanea are pleased to announce a solo show by artist RYAN MCGINLEY (USA, 1977) entitled 'YEARBOOK', an exhibition curated by Alex Brahim and Mario Martín Pareja.

YEARBOOK is a single artwork that consists of over five hundred studio portraits of over two hundred models, always in the nude, printed on vinyl and adhered to every available inch of the La Termica's walls. The installation's effect is hugely impressive in its standalone visual power, an enveloping entity flooding the entire space with bold color and form. Although the sheer abundance of available images renders a total "reading" impossible, there is never any sense of incompleteness, as each individual image functions autonomously, granting the viewer access to a delicate, once-private moment.

McGinley's works have deeply permeated the fabric of popular imagery to become foundational touchstones for our very perception of the modern world. Like all McGinley's pictures, they are characterized by a unique temporal tension: they are strongly contemporary, but create and capture a paradisiacal ideal that is timeless. The YEARBOOK project – which began in 2008, three years prior to the advent of Instagram – compartmentalizes, confuses, celebrates and categorizes the carnal. These photographs are characterized at the deepest level by a euphoric optimism. You get the feeling you could spend a happy eternity marveling at the grandeur of these seemingly limitless bodies.

Throughout his career, the artist has repeatedly broken down distinctions between the public and the private. Here, he has employed techniques of mass commercial image production to realize what is a profoundly personal vision. The use of candy-colored backgrounds – first introduced in *Animals* – and the slick, poster-style production and presentation give the show a Pop art quality, making the already irresistible images all the more inviting. The macrocosmic effect of the artwork, of this constellation of people, is one of emotional and aesthetic synergy. The "posters" physically overlap one another, evincing a sense of unity between images.



Chloe, 2016 © Ryan McGinley  
Courtesy of Team Gallery, New York



Sophie, 2015 © Ryan McGinley  
Courtesy of Team Gallery, New York



Chris, 2011 © Ryan McGinley  
Courtesy of Team Gallery, New York



Mollie, 2013 © Ryan McGinley  
Courtesy of Team Gallery, New York



Adrej, 2011 © Ryan McGinley  
Courtesy of Team Gallery,  
New York



Christopher, 2015 © Ryan McGinley  
Courtesy of Team Gallery, New York

YEARBOOK focuses on the extraordinary ability of McGinley to generate an emotional climate in the observer when dealing with individuals who appear in the images. While every photograph signs a relationship between three elements: the photographer, the viewer and that photographed, Ryan McGinley induces his work not only to the contemplation of an image or its understanding, but opens the doors to the emotional backroom of the human condition. Concepts like freedom, innocence, sensuality, disturbance or wisdom, as well as a wide range from the hilarious to the tormented of emotions emerge in the photographs presented in this exhibition to infect us, or even dive us.

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McGinley's photographs are strongly contemporary, but create and capture a paradisiacal ideal that is timeless. 'Yearbook' is a single artwork that consists of over five hundred studio portraits of over two hundred models, always in the nude. These photographs celebrate and categorize the carnal and they are characterized at the deepest level by a euphoric optimism. You get the feeling you could spend a happy eternity marveling at the grandeur of these seemingly limitless bodies.

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Elise & Meryl, 2010 © Ryan McGinley  
Courtesy of Team Gallery, New York



Nika, 2014 © Ryan McGinley  
Courtesy of Team Gallery, New York





Jacob, 2015 © Ryan McGinley  
Courtesy of Team Gallery, New York



Rebecca, 2014 © Ryan McGinley  
Courtesy of Team Gallery, New York

## RYAN MCGINLEY

RYAN MCGINLEY (USA, 1977) enrolled as a graphic design student at Parsons School of Design. After a hand-made, self published book called 'The Kids Are Alright' with the photos of his friends: skateboarders, musicians, and graffiti artists from New York, he had a solo show at the Whitney while he was only 26. His subjects are performing for the camera and exploring themselves with an acute self-awareness that is decidedly contemporary. McGinley has always been compared to Nan Goldin, Wolfgang Tillmans and Larry Clark. His work has been exhibited in the best museums and galleries worldwide.

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**Photographer Ryan McGinley will have an encounter with the audience on November, 19 at 7 pm along with the curators of the show.**

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## About the Exhibition

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| <b>Dates:</b> November 19 - February 4   |  | <b>Press conference:</b> November 19, 11 a.m.<br><b>Encounter with Ryan McGinley:</b> November 19, 7 p.m.<br><b>Opening:</b> November 19, 8 p.m. |  |
| <b>Address:</b>  | La Térmica<br>Avenida de Los Guindos, 48<br>29004 Málaga<br>Tel. 952 069 100 | <b>Price:</b> Free Entrance  |  |
| <b>Opening Hours:</b> Monday to Saturday: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.<br>Sunday and Holidays: 12 p.m. - 7'30 p.m. |  |  |  |
| <b>Telephone:</b>  | +34 686 265 924  | <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:info@contemporanea.org">info@contemporanea.org</a>   |  |
| <b>Organized by:</b>   | La Térmica, Diputación de Málaga y Contemporánea                             | <b>Produced by:</b> La Térmica   |  |
| <b>Curated by:</b>   | Alex Brahim y Mario Martín Pareja  |  |  |

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# Contemporánea

Contemporanea was founded in 1996 as an entity which promotes art through activities and culture programs in Spain and worldwide.

Mario Martin Pareja and Dumia Medina are the Directors.

He has produced more than 50 exhibitions such as "Apocalypse", with Keith Haring and Williams Burroughs; "Seguir vivo", with Michel Houellebecq and Masbedo; "Andy Warhol, Pietro Psaier & The Factory: Pop Icons"; "USA Today: An Approach to 21st Century American Art"; "Gráfika. A Collections of Prints by the Artists of Beautiful Losers"; "Lydia Lunch. A Retrospective"; "Gráfika. 30 Artists from Young Spain"; "Duffy. Retrospective"; "Richard Kern. Naked and Famous", "Steve Schapiro. Retrospectiva", "C215. Sobre todo, los objetos", "Suite 1742. John Lennon & Yoko Ono", "Madonna. El nacimiento de un mito" "Nirvana. 20 Años", "From Sex To Punk", "Duffy. Bowie Series", among others.

As editor it has also produced books (Lydia Lunch, Michel Houellebecq, William S. Burroughs) or limited edition prints and objects (Richard Kern, Tim Biskup, C215, Miss Van, Lydia Lunch, Jim Houser, René Peña, Victor Castillo, Valeriano López, Chema López, Jacobo Castellano, Boris Hoppek, etc.).

Contemporanea also collaborates with other Museums and Art Centers in musical, spoken word and performing activities. It has worked with entities such as Centre de Cultura Contemporanea de Barcelona (CCCB); La Casa Encendida (Madrid); Fundación para las Artes (Valladolid); DA2-Domus Artium (Salamanca); Espai D'Art (Castellon); Es Baluard (Majorca); José Saramago Foundation, Audi Foundation Beirut, etc.

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## Contacts

For further information / Use of pictures / Interviews

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## Websites

www.contemporanea.org  
www.latermicamalaga.com

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