
INTERNATIONAL
Herald Tribune Culture

[iht.com](#) [Business](#) [Culture](#) [Sports](#) [Opinion](#)

Morning home delivery - save up to 65%

[AMERICAS](#) [EUROPE](#) [ASIA/PACIFIC](#) [AFRICA/MIDDLE EAST](#) | [TECH/MEDIA](#) [STYLE](#) [HEALTH](#)
[TRAVEL](#) [PROPERTIES](#) [BLOGS](#) [DISCUSSIONS](#) [SPECIAL REPORTS](#) [AUDIONEWS](#)

SEARCH

Advanced Search

Art: The Internet elevates amateur self-portraits into art

By Keith Schneider
Published: March 19, 2007

Noah Kalina flew to Switzerland last month to attend the opening of "We're All Photographers Now," an exhibition at the Musée de l'Élysée in Lausanne. The show is a survey of trends in digital photography, particularly portraiture, and Kalina produced its foremost example of how technology is changing the genre. His globally popular video "everyday" is composed of 2,356 daily self-portraits shot from Jan. 11, 2000, to July 31, 2006.

Kalina, 26, who lives in Brooklyn, earns his living photographing the interiors of Manhattan bars and restaurants. Ever since he posted "everyday" to YouTube in August, this six-minute film has generated a low-level conversation in photographic circles about its artistic merits.

But what makes "everyday" truly exceptional is how easy it was to make and how quickly it attracted a huge audience, said William Ewing, director of the Musée de l'Élysée, who selected it for the exhibition.

"Noah's video represents a phenomenal amplification not just in what he produced and how he did it, but how many people the piece touched in such a short period of time," said Ewing, the author of "Face: The New Photographic Portrait" (Thames & Hudson). "There is nothing comparable in the history of photography."

"Digital technology, computers, software and the Internet multiply the number of people with access to taking and viewing pictures," he added. "Once you buy the camera, there are almost no other costs. That is increasing the variety and creativity in how people take pictures, and what they do with them."

Today in Culture

'No Country' and 'There will Be Blood' lead Oscars

Dengue Fever: Los Angeles band mixes Cambodian pop and American indie rock

Sundance: Shopping for films but settling for some fun

"We're All Photographers Now" (www.allphotographersnow.ch) continues through May 30.

Kalina, like other photographers in the show, many of them amateurs, used a combination of digital tools and technical know-how that has become routine for his generation. By adroitly joining digital still photography, computer software and the Internet, he turned a student art project characterized principally by self-absorption into a global phenomenon.

"Everyday" succeeds in large part because it adheres to all three of the new principles of digital media, said Jonathan Lipkin, a professor of digital media at Ramapo College in New Jersey and the author of "Photography Reborn" (Abrams).

"The hallmarks of the new age of digital imagery are distribution, combination and manipulation," Lipkin said. "The use of digital technology is especially revealing in portraiture. The digital camera has changed the genre. Before now it was just about impossible to do what Noah Kalina has done."

Just one facet of the film project took real devotion: Kalina's daily routine of snapping his own picture for nearly six years. The other part — transforming portraits that individually had attracted no attention into a film that is riveting — was almost too easy.

One afternoon in late August, prompted by a similar film of time-lapse portraiture made that month by a California graphic designer, Ahree Lee, Kalina collected the digital self-portraits he had taken since he was a 19-year-old student at the School of Visual Arts in New York. He downloaded them into the Windows Movie Maker software program on his desktop computer, spaced the portraits at an interval of six images per second, set the film to a shadowy and insistent piano soundtrack (composed and performed by Carly Comando, his girlfriend at the time) and wrote the credits and title.

Making the film took four hours. That's all. Then Kalina, like millions of others of his generation for whom stylized digital self-portraits are an important personal message and a form of self-actualization, posted it on Aug. 28 to YouTube. (It can also be found on noahkalina.com.) The response, he said, was instantaneous and unnerving. Thousands of young people, who regard the Internet as a vast digital campfire, found "everyday," shared links with their friends and built an audience that has reached 5.3 million and is growing by 10,000 per day.

"Until that moment it was always a still-photography project," Kalina said. "A friend suggested that it could be a movie. I was never convinced it would really work until I saw Ahree Lee's movie. Now there's a whole group



"Me" consists of more than 1,000 self-portraits of Ahree Lee, a graphic designer. [\[Enlarge this image\]](#)

[E-Mail Article](#) [Printer-Friendly](#)
[3-Column Format](#) [Translate](#)
[Share Article](#) [Text Size](#) [-] [+]
[Listen to Article](#)

Most E-Mailed

24 Hours | 7 Days | 30 Days

1. On the cusp of economic history
2. Tests find hazardous levels of mercury in tuna sushi in New York
3. The failure of neo-liberalism
4. Serbia deal tightens Russia's grip on European energy
5. A flu pandemic that wasn't but might be
6. Collateral damage
7. European court condemns France for refusing to allow lesbian to adopt
8. Federal Reserve makes emergency 0.75% rate cut
9. Issues take back seat as Obama and Clinton tangle
10. Post office robbers create chaos in Gothenburg, Sweden

INTERNATIONAL
Herald Tribune iht.com/travel

The 53 places to go in 2008
Also in Travel:
Ten must-visit European hotels
Globespotters Video: Hidden delights from across the globe
Tyler Brulé's top 50 travel list for 2008

Ads by Google

Digital Photography Class
Professional Classes In NY-Learn More About It Today (212) 353-4195.
www.Cooper.edu/ce

Bella Wedding Photography
Voted Best of Citysearch 2007! Get New York wedding pics from pros
BellaPictures.com

Kiddie Kandids Portraits
Specializing in infant and toddler photography for over 35 years!
www.kiddiekandids.com

PhotoManhattan NYC
Photography courses, Film & Digital & monthly Free Photo Classes!
www.photomanhattan.com



- News:** [Americas](#) | [Europe](#) | [Asia - Pacific](#) | [Africa & Middle East](#) | [Technology & Media](#) | [Health & Science](#) | [Sports](#)
- Features:** [Culture](#) | [Style & Design](#) | [Travel](#) | [At Home Abroad](#) | [Blogs](#) | [Reader Discussions](#) | [Weather](#)
- Business:** [Business with Reuters](#) | [World Markets](#) | [Currencies](#) | [Commodities](#) | [Portfolios](#) | [Your Money](#) | [Funds Insite](#)
- Opinion:** [Opinion Home](#) | [Email the Editor](#) | [Newspaper Masthead](#)
- Classifieds:** [Classifieds Home](#) | [Properties](#) | [Education Center](#)

- Company Info:** [About the IHT](#) | [Advertise in the IHT](#) | [IHT Events](#) | [Press Office](#)
- Newspaper:** [Today's Page One in Europe](#) | [Today's Page One in Asia](#) | [Publishing Partnerships](#)
- Other Formats:** [IHT Mobile](#) | [RSS](#) | [AudioNews](#) | [PDA & Smartphones](#) | [Netvibes](#) | [IHT Electronic Edition](#) | [E-Mail Alerts](#) | [Twitter](#)
- More:** [Daily Article Index](#) | [Hyper-Sudoku](#) | [IHT Developer Blog](#)

Search



Subscriptions
[Sign Up](#) | [Manage](#)

[Contact Us](#) | [Site Index](#) | [Archives](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Contributor Policy](#) | [Privacy & Cookies](#)

Copyright © 2008 the International Herald Tribune All rights reserved