



Man Going Northeast at 71 mph on Interstate 40 Outside of Phoenix on a Monday Morning in January 1991

Photographer Andrew Bush, an artist who describes his car as a "tripod on wheels," spoke exclusively with LIFE about "Vector Portraits," a series of photographs of L.A. drivers. The portraits convey a sense of both racing motion and eerie immobility, while questioning the nature of our private and public lives. "Vector Portraits" is currently showing, simultaneously, at the [Yossi Milo](#) and Julie Saul galleries in New York City. *Photograph by Andrew Bush*

Photo: Blank/Time & Life Pictures

Printed From: <http://www.life.com/image/first/in-gallery/25811/life-in-the-fast-lane>

© 2009 See Your World LLC. All Rights Reserved



Man and Woman Passing Through the Intersection of Cahuenga and Hollywood Boulevards, Hollywood, at 33 mph on February 14, 1997

While shooting, Andrew saw drivers engaged in all sorts of activities: reading, shaving, kissing. "Anything under the sun takes place, especially if there's more than one person in the car," he says. *Photograph by Andrew Bush*
Photo: Blank/Time & Life Pictures

Printed From: <http://www.life.com/image/first/in-gallery/25811/life-in-the-fast-lane>

© 2009 See Your World LLC. All Rights Reserved



Beverly Hills High School Students (?) Cruising West at 38 mph Along Sunset Boulevard on a Weekend in February 1997

"Often you could see from a quarter-mile away if a car looked incredible," Bush says, "because it had extremely bright paint or was a particular model or was driving erratically -- any number of cues that would make me pursue a car." Bush, who took the "Vector" photos between 1989 and 1997, began the project because, he says, it was clear that in Los Angeles, there's "a great relationship between people and their cars." *Photograph by Andrew Bush*

Photo: Blank/Time & Life Pictures

Printed From: <http://www.life.com/image/first/in-gallery/25811/life-in-the-fast-lane>

© 2009 See Your World LLC. All Rights Reserved



Woman Waiting to Proceed South at Sunset and Highland Boulevards, Los Angeles, at Approximately 11:59 A.M. One Day in February 1997

"There are times when it was clear that the driver was just an extraordinary character study, and I would do whatever I could to maneuver my car so that I could make a picture." *Photograph by Andrew Bush*

Photo: Blank/Time & Life Pictures

Printed From: <http://www.life.com/image/first/in-gallery/25811/life-in-the-fast-lane>

© 2009 See Your World LLC. All Rights Reserved

**Not Yet Titled**

"One of the most important features in these pictures is the hint of speed," Bush says "For the most part, everyone looks like they are standing still. I became fascinated with the idea of moving in parallel with the person next to me, as a way of coming into their world." *Photograph by Andrew Bush*

Photo: Blank/Time & Life Pictures

Printed From: <http://www.life.com/image/first/in-gallery/25811/life-in-the-fast-lane>

© 2009 See Your World LLC. All Rights Reserved



High School Students Facing North at 0 mph on Sepulveda Boulevard in Westwood, California, at 3:01 P.M. on a Saturday in February 1997

"As I took more and more pictures it became clear that when a car had more than one occupant, there was instantly some kind of relationship that one could project on to the people in the car. It became sort of like interrupting a play and deciding what that play was about." *Photograph by Andrew Bush*

Photo: Blank/Time & Life Pictures

Printed From: <http://www.life.com/image/first/in-gallery/25811/life-in-the-fast-lane>

© 2009 See Your World LLC. All Rights Reserved



Woman Meandering at Differing Speeds Through Various Parts of Pacific Palisades, California, While Singing, Before Noon on a Weekend Day in The Early Part of 1997

"One of the things that becomes obvious with these pictures is that it isn't necessarily about being *enclosed* in the car so much as the maneuvering and direction and the speed that makes them feel that they are untouchable, in control of their destiny, in a private world of their own." *Photograph by Andrew Bush*

Photo: Blank/Time & Life Pictures

Printed From: <http://www.life.com/image/first/in-gallery/25811/life-in-the-fast-lane>

© 2009 See Your World LLC. All Rights Reserved



**Man Heading South at 73 mph on Interstate 5 Near Buttonwillow Drive
Outside of Bakersfield, California, at 5:36 P.M. on a Tuesday in March 1992**

The "Vector" photos are "really meant to be seen life-size," Bush says, "so you get the sense of this very powerful car moving very fast." *Photograph by Andrew Bush*

Photo: Blank/Time & Life Pictures

Printed From: <http://www.life.com/image/first/in-gallery/25811/life-in-the-fast-lane>

© 2009 See Your World LLC. All Rights Reserved



Man Traveling 73 mph Toward an Overpass on a Tuesday Morning Outside of Portola Valley, California, on an Afternoon in March 1992

"I could continue this project and expand it into other countries," Bush says, "and because of digital photography it would be quite a bit easier. But then I'd probably die in the car, too." Additional images can be seen in Andrew's book, "[Drive.](#)" Visit Bush's site, andrewbush.net. *Photograph by Andrew Bush*

Photo: Blank/Time & Life Pictures

Printed From: <http://www.life.com/image/first/in-gallery/25811/life-in-the-fast-lane>

© 2009 See Your World LLC. All Rights Reserved