

'America' exposed

Famous photographer's book of stunning portraits hits stores

By JOE CUNNINGHAM

ANDRES Serrano will forever be associated with a certain infamous 1989 photo of a crucifix submerged in urine.

But asked how he feels about having the word "controversial" affixed to his name in practically everything that's written about him, the 54-year-old photographer just shrugs it off.

"I've come to accept it,"

he says. "I'm a [product] of the sixties. It was a time of revolution . . . I'm just a rebel that never grew up."

Serrano, who has Honduran and Cuban roots, has just released a huge book of his photographs, entitled "America," which mixes iconic images, like boy scouts and priests; depictions of society's outcasts, the destitute and the homeless; and photos of celebrities, like Snoop Dogg and Anna Nicole Smith.

There are two stars, how-

ever, whom the photographer has pursued unsuccessfully — Martha Stewart and Paris Hilton.

"Martha called me personally. But a few weeks later, it was shot down by a publicist," he recalls.

"I'm not sure what [Paris Hilton] was afraid of. I couldn't have revealed any more of her than she did herself."

Serrano will sign copies of "Andres Serrano, America and Other Work" (TASCHEN, \$59.99) tomorrow, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., at Christie's, 20 Rockefeller Plaza (49th St., between Fifth and Sixth avenues).



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Serrano is back with a new book, "America."