

2004 celebration of glamour

Passion for fashion

Sex and fashion have always been partners in crime.

Katie Scott explores the relationship in two new books

Terryworld surprised me. On initial viewing I was, I'll admit, embarrassed to be seen reading a coffee-table-sized book that offers up more hardcore photographs than the entire top shelf of your average newsagent. Be warned, Richardson may be best known as a fashion photographer, but clothes are a notable by their absence here – and many images go far beyond the usual softcore limits of fashion photography.

But on second viewing I saw beyond the flesh to recognise the humour – the key to Richardson's work and the reason he has made such an impact on the world of fashion. And key to the humour is Richardson's presence in his images – whether they show his thumb as it is provocatively sucked by Hollywood's latest starlet or the back of his head as he happily sticks his tongue down the throat of some nubile young thing. Then of course there are the many images in which Terry appears in his entirety (and yes, he's happy to reveal everything), whether by himself or with a beautiful woman (with huge breasts).



Richardson unabashedly uses his role as photographer to get his hands on fashion and film's most perfect people, and by capturing the act, lives out the dreams of the wannabe 1970s porn star – indeed he looks like he's just stepped off the set of *Boogie Nights*.

Of course, it's easy to disapprove of this seemingly exploitative approach, were it not for the fact that stars are queuing up to be shot by Richardson, or that his own presence in the pictures complicates matters. For while he may be objectifying the men and women he photographs,

he is there with them, baring all. And while the images reveal the imperfections of those we usually see as flawless, the biggest imperfection – and the silliest character – is usually Richardson himself.

So while *Terryworld* (published by Taschen, priced £35) is about fashion, sex and seediness, it is also about how ridiculous it is that someone as plain and as politically incorrect as Richardson has managed to get such a strong foothold in the conservative world of fashion. As such, this book is a testament to Richardson's massive impact on that

A typically brash image from fashion photographer Terry Richardson – although it's a fairly tame example by the standards of Terryworld, his latest book published by Taschen.

world, but it is also a self-deprecating, shocking and very funny insight into the realities and fantasies of his life.

In view of the lack of clothing, it may seem odd to say that *The Pirelli Calendar – 40 years complete* (published by Thames & Hudson, priced £45) is a fascinating insight into changing fashions. However, in documenting the altering notions of beauty from the first Pirelli Calendar to last year's monumental work by Nick Knight, the book does just that – proof that fashion runs deeper than the cloth.

And while this is partly revealed in cosmetic changes, such as the models' make-up and hairstyles, it is clearly shown in the way that fashion photographers have presented the female form over the years. In doing so, the calendars reflect what Pirelli's male-dominated, hand-picked audience desired, and how photographers recreated these fantasies. **BJP**