

THE BIG PICTURE

Aesthetic Surgery edited by
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Taschen, £29.99

★★★★☆

Our current obsession with short cuts to the body beautiful is leading to more people going under the scalpel for cosmetic procedures every year. Aesthetic Surgery takes a look at the cultural and historical significance of this trend, combining a consideration of beauty as depicted in art through the centuries and an examination of how Hollywood has portrayed plastic surgery (such as in Face/Off, pictured). It includes revealing interviews with leading surgeons around the world and an A to Z of methods and techniques. The surgery pictures pull no punches (possibly not coffee table material) but the insights are fascinating – although the fact a chapter on celebrities and their surgical tweaks had to be dropped for legal reasons will be mourned by all avid Heat readers.

Siobhan Murphy

