

**THE BIG PICTURE**Helmut Newton, *A Gun For Hire* edited by June Newton

Taschen, £19.99

★★★★☆

German-born photographer Helmut Newton carved his vision of 1980s fashion into everyone's consciousness. His dominant, striding women, all shoulder pads, red lipstick and killer heels, were unforgettable. Starkly lit and often created in industrial or other threatening settings, Newton's scenes were stylised, erotic and often sado-masochistic – jarring in the same way Guy Bourdin's work shocked us into a new appreciation of fashion photography.

Newton, however, refused to accept he was an artist: this posthumous collection of his

fashion catalogue work takes its title from his self-deprecating comment to Newsweek that: 'Some people's photography is an art. Mine is not... I'm a gun for hire.' His widow June – a successful photographer in her own right – has picked a selection of images stretching from 1962 to 2003, including his last editorial photographs for US and Italian Vogue. You won't find any of Newton's famous nudes here – just examples of this innovative photographer's feverish imagination when faced with fashion.

SM