

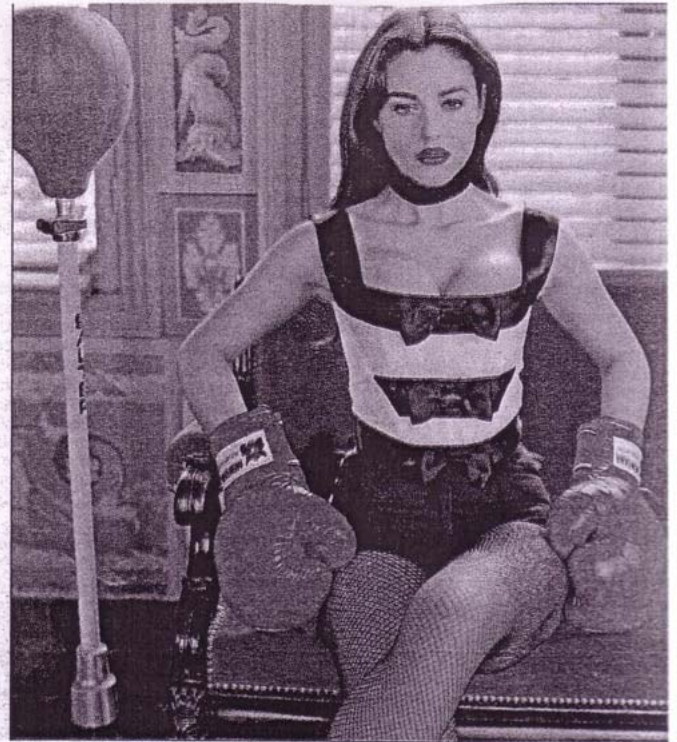
BOOKS

# Parting shot

Posthumous collection toasts Helmut Newton

**A GUN FOR HIRE**  
**Helmut Newton**  
 ★★ ★★  
 Taschen, \$39.99

**T**HE title is an adaptation of a quote from the photographer, who died last year at 82. While wildly celebrated, he objected to the preciousness associated with his art, insisting, despite all evidence to the contrary, that his role was as a rented shooter. Indeed, the work in this beautifully compiled collection is culled from number of assignments, and cherry-picked with impeccable taste by his widow, June. Comprising his fashion work from 1962 through to 2003, the book shows how steady Newton's gaze remained, even as fashion continued to reinvent itself. Soft kink meets nudging humor — the awkwardness of '80s fashion gives way to a shoot for *American Vogue* of the typical Amazonian blonde coupled with a natty man half her size. Witty, wise, and beautifully composed, it's a marvelous testament to the work J.G. Ballard referred to as "stills from an elegant and erotic movie."  
 — William Georgiades



Newton-ian physiques (clockwise above): A knockout sports a Blumarine ensemble, 1993; a winking take on an iconic Thierry Mugler suit, 1998; Kate Moss backstage at Yves Saint Laurent, spring/summer 1993; an amazonian mannequin shot in the cliffs of Monte Carlo, from *U.S. Vogue*, 2003. All stills courtesy of Helmut Newton Estate.