



The late rapper Tupac, as seen by David La Chapelle

■ Taschen's Vatican connection

Benedikt Taschen's launch party for David La Chapelle's book "Artists and prostitutes"—688 pages of luscious, full-bleed, colour pics of the likes of Madonna, Lil' Kim, Courtney Love and David Beckham, most of them with very little on—took place in the garden of the Setai Hotel last night. It featured what appeared to be a giant pink plastic tent floating in the middle of the

pool. High profile guests including Larry Gagosian and "Judy" Lybke of Eigen&Art surveyed this peculiar structure the secret of which was eventually unveiled by the mighty Taschen himself. Nestling in the middle was a naked, busty model, turning the giant pages of Chapelle's jumbo-sized work. A nude man followed shortly after and attempted to lure this lovely from her book. Not everyone got to see this "artistic" spectacle, however: the mighty New York dealer Tony Shafrazi was elbowed aside in the scrum.

The gloriously kitsch launch belied the sobriety of the book's production. As with all his special outsize books, Taschen had it bound by the same Italian firm that binds outsize devotional books for the Vatican, and huge Korans. What fireworks if they muddled up their deliveries...