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Acclaimed photographer **DAVID LACHAPELLE** releases his long-awaited anthology

As far as living photographers go, none are quite so iconic as David LaChapelle. The proclaimed king of kitsch has built over twenty years an artistic empire spanning the fields of music video, photography and documentary film. With an exaggerated, saturated style that is instantly recognisable to the cultured eye, he has body-painted Lil' Kim with the Luis Vuitton logo, toyed with disabled subjects and thrown a scantily clad Christina Aguilera into a mud wrestling pit when he directed her controversial *Dirty* video. For Elton John's Red Piano concerts in Las Vegas he pulled out all the stops, including campy projections of Pamela Anderson in a bikini pole dancing in time to Rocket Man's greatest hits.

Ranked amongst the "Top Ten Most Important People in Photography" by *American PHOTO* magazine, LaChapelle started to climb the ladder while still in high school, being offered a placement at *Interview* magazine by Andy Warhol. Since then, *Italian Vogue*, *Vanity Fair*, *Rolling Stone*, *The Face* and *i-D* have commissioned his unfettered satire of pop culture for fashion imagery and portraiture.

Celebrating the two-decade career span of contemporary photography's greatest player, a lengthy anthology of LaChapelle's work is about to be launched. *Artists and Prostitutes* reminisces former shoots with such diverse subjects as Elizabeth Taylor, Leonardo DiCaprio, Britney Spears, Hilary Clinton and Tupac Shakur, as well as iconic portraits of his doll-like muse and *Attitude* favourite, Amanda Lepore. As expected, this limited edition contains more colour and drama than a civil partnership in Disneyland.

This 13.5 x 19.6-inch beast of a book contains 690 pages, suggesting that it's more a coffee table than a coffee table read. With a price tag of £350, it's unlikely that *Artists and Prostitutes* will end up in a Cancer Research shop near you any time in the near future, but expect its eBay value to rocket the day it's launched – not least because each and every copy has been hand-signed by the photographer himself.

A visionary, LaChapelle has been dubbed "the next Warhol". This inspiring tome provides a conclusive view into his uncompromising, spectacular world. *'Artists And Prostitutes'* is published by Taschen

