



"Thinking man's eye candy" from photographer David LaChapelle: the workaday sexpot Pamela Anderson (above) and the late and legendary Tupac Shakur (below)

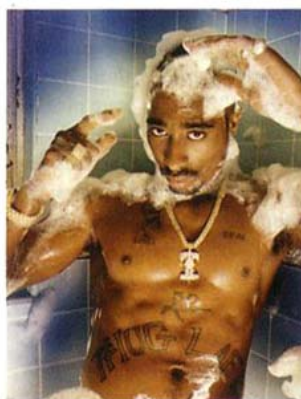
ARTISTS AND PROSTITUTES

by David LaChapelle
Taschen, 688 pages, \$2,250

THIS MASSIVE, glistening book of sin is filled with photographs of your favourite celebrities in your favourite arresting poses: Sarah Jessica Parker (in her underwear on a crowded subway); The Rock (reclined next to a black bull); and J.Lo (wearing only a stretched-out grey sweater and red heels, à la Jennifer Beals in *Flashdance*). There are also pages of beautiful models (often nude) in poses that make all those celebrities look a tad tame, not

to mention plenty of offensive material, including a rendition of the last supper recast with MTV-style hipsters, and a blonde (also nude) transsexual snorting lines of diamonds through a five-hundred dollar bill.

All of this is the work of David LaChapelle, a photographer who's hot right now in the way that the corona of the sun is hot right now, an artist who was still in high school when he was given his first photo assignment by Andy Warhol and who has an undeniable gift for bringing out everyone's inner pimp or ho, presenting it in wild colour and splashing it against an ironic, culturally informed,



thought-provoking backdrop.

The problem? At over \$2,000, this collector's item – printed in a limited edition of 2,500 copies, each one signed by LaChapelle –

is not what you would call an impulse buy. So in the event that you don't take the book home with you, here are a few things you can say at your next dinner party to make it sound like you did:

1) "It's just ironic enough to be sincere."

2) "It's thinking man's eye candy. And I mean that in a good way."

3) "Hurray! It's okay to go bold with colour again."

4) "My mother accidentally saw the picture of the man crouching on a bed with a vase of flowers in his anus sitting next to a hot, forlorn-looking model and called a family meeting."

— Mark Schatzker