

the erotic eye

**THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF BILL WARD**

If Bettie Page is the queen of pin-ups, this Taschen collection makes the case for Bill Ward as her royal consort. His claim relies on the signature drawings he created in the 1950s and 1960s. The poses are traditional and the outfits standard-issue: stiletto heels, silk stockings and peekaboo peignoirs. Their distinction lies in the execution. Working with conté crayon on newsprint stock, Ward sculpted his women and brought a dizzying sheen to their fetishistic costumes. Highlighted with opaque white, the total effect is sensual, elegant and unlike anything else out there. Here, this classic material is fleshed out, so to speak, with an essay by editor Eric Kroll. A welcome companion to Fantagraphics's 2003 Ward monograph, this is an indispensable resource for connoisseurs of babes, boobs and pop culture. ♣♣♣

—Lee Lorenz

