

REVIEWS

WORDS & PICTURES

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by Cordella Chadwick and Lauren Riggins

**LACHAPELLE
ARTISTS
&
PROSTITUTES**

David LaChapelle: Artists & Prostitutes, 1985-2005
By David LaChapelle
Taschen, Taschen.com

Recognized as one of the world's iconic photographers, David LaChapelle draws inspiration from a myriad of sources and blends the history of portraiture with a view of contemporary pop culture that is at once penetrating, critical, and ironic. *Rolling Stone*, *French Vogue*, *Vanity Fair*, *i-D*, and *Italian Vogue* have all featured LaChapelle's images, while his directorial credits include music videos for Gwen Stefani, Moby, and The Vines, as well as the phenomenal documentary *Rize*, about krump dancing in South Central Los Angeles. In *David LaChapelle: Artists & Prostitutes*, Taschen gathered some of LaChapelle's most striking stills. Breasts feature prominently in LaChapelle's work, especially those of the über-sized Pamela Anderson and of the number one transsexual Amanda Lepore, all while exploring themes of pornography, the cult of celebrity, mass consumerism, decadence, body as commodity, and fantasy. LaChapelle saturates his visual language with high-contrast colors, which pink and blue dominate, and often times a chaotic disregard for visual logic. He veers into the burlesque by incorporating sex as a highly conceptualized object, but does so with such affection for his models that, rather than cutting, his irony fluffs and embraces the scene. Varying degrees of narrative and an exacting attention to detail afford the viewer access to a sliding scale of what is sacred and profane. Selling domestically for \$1,750, this limited edition print run of 2,500 books comes hardcover in a cloth-covered box, and in XXL format, measuring 13.6 by 19.7 inches. Make some rich friends. —CC

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