



**Alejandro González Iñárritu *Babel* (Taschen)**

Before picking up this book I didn't know what director Alejandro González Iñárritu's upcoming film *Babel* was about. I was, however, pretty sure it would bum me out, seeing that my heart is still recuperating from 2002's miseryfest *21 Grams*. During the making of his newest tri-part epic, Iñárritu had photographers Patrick Bard, Miguel Río Branco, Graciela Iturbide and Mary Ellen Mark document the events around the set for this companion piece. Like Iñárritu, they see the world as a mix of magical and severe. Pages of barren borderlands and Brad Pitt looking old are accompanied by the director's observations like, "...a film is more about your guts, your pelvis, and the amount of sunshine in your stomach than your brains and intellectual skills." Now that I've read it, I'm pretty sure that *Babel* has something to do with Cate Blanchett bleeding on a floor in Morocco and deaf-mute Japanese girls on ecstasy. But most importantly, it's about movies being a really big deal. ED