



SAUDEK

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TASCHEN

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Here's another bumper book of yet another controversial, but mind-blowingly talented Czech photographer, Jan Saudek. He is worshipped and condemned, celebrated and rejected, honoured and execrated... but then anybody who has the courage to stand out in a rather beige crowd is always going to be criticised, particularly when it concerns eroticism - and Saudek is more ostentatious than most. Inside this beautiful and often shocking volume of work, some of which is described as a Theatre of Life, you can browse through superb illustrations and designs, read his poetry and biography, and then you laugh and cry with both joy and sadness. A couple make love in the countryside where a lifeless body hangs from a tree, ballerinas pose nonchalantly revealing their genitals, couples fornicate in the most seedy of bedsits, and old men suckle the breasts of younger women whilst dwarves pose naked with archetypal blonde glamour models. A lot of his work is tender, yet there are power games being played and some facial expressions are filled with hatred. Expression is certainly bold and brash and many of his subjects look completely battered - both physically and emotionally by life. Saudek tells his own fascinating tale of life via his camera and this book becomes a celebration of his own world... a celebration of a strange joy, and a profound understanding of humour FLEUR TEE