

# SHOOT TO THRILL

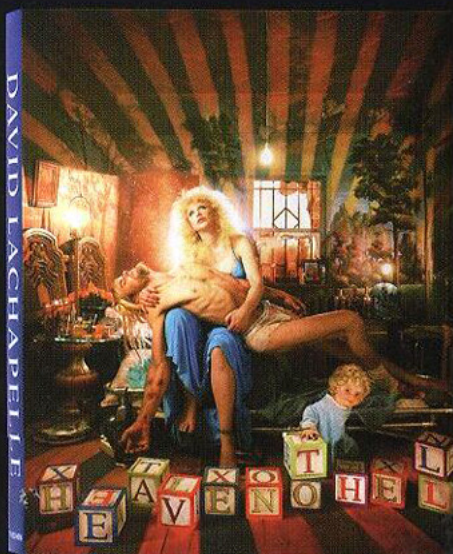
**IN THE HILARIOUS** hyper-reality of David LaChapelle, Paris Hilton's in-your-face attitude is colour-saturated; gang members worship Jesus in renaissance excess; a woman in an evening dress floats in a surrealistic, slightly futuristic fountain; Devon Aoki looks like a dominatrix about to teach a trout a good lesson; Lil' Kim emerges naked as luxury brand goods; and a woman embraces a gargantuan hot dog in suburbia.

These images from two of his recent books, *Heaven to Hell* and *Artists & Prostitutes*, reveal the daring, lysergic, visionary work that questions our ideas of gender, consumerism,

religion, pornography, fashion and pop culture.

A social satirist with a dilated imagination, LaChapelle devours his subjects. He doesn't aim for naturalism, but rather manipulates subjects and sets with supercharged, candy-glossed colours, a wild sense of humour and a mix of influences from Caravaggio to cartoons. The results are shocking, disturbing, erotic – half dreamworld, half funland. Nothing is subtle or hidden – it demands to be seen in photographs run large. "Any time you aim a light," he says, "you change reality." LaChapelle's photographs are a visceral thrill for the eyes; more an emotional rush than a cerebral calm. – *Paul Ehrlich*

**Heaven to Hell,**  
*Taschen, 2006*  
Hardcover and box,  
27.8 x 35.5 cm  
(10.9 x 14 in.), 344 pages



**Artists & Prostitutes,**  
*Taschen, 2006*  
Hardcover and box,  
34.5 x 50 cm  
(13.6 x 19.7 in.),  
698 pages

