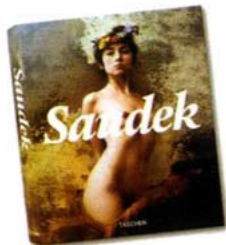


PHOTO PREVIEW

LUST FOR LIFE



Saudek by Jan Saudek (Taschen)
£35.99 from
bookshops or by
mail-order from
Moondance Media
(see separate advert
in this issue)

THESE DAYS you tend to get a lot of sameness in erotic photography collections, which may be at least partly to do with most photographers' insistence on only shooting 'model' types, ie young, thin, and production-line pretty. Then you get someone like Jan Saudek, Czechoslovakia's most famous photographer, whose subjects encompass all ages, shapes and sizes. He's lived a life like few other photographers: sent to a concentration camp as a child, he later had much of his work suppressed by the Czech government up until the Velvet Revolution.

Perhaps the suppression was unsurprising: wonderful earthy, bawdy, startling tableaux such as the ones shown here are never going to go down well with authoritarian regimes. Elsewhere in the collection you will find a mix of straight-ish black and white reportage, paintings, prints and hand-tinted photography, some sequences of pictures telling simple but haunting stories, some single images that linger powerfully in the mind. Most of the material here is erotic, some of it unconventional and even a little unsettling, with images reminiscent of bizarre Victorian set-pieces, and some of it is suffused with familial contentment and an appreciation of life's beauty: Saudek documents his own life and the lives of friends and loved ones as well as creating stories, myths and allegories in pictures. if you have even the remotest interest in erotic art, this is a book to treasure. ►