



Saudek

*Taschen, hardback, 444 pages,
£39.99, ISBN 978-3-8228-3020*

For some, the provocative images by Czechoslovakian photographer Jan Saudek are utterly repulsive, while for others they suggest a lyrical and erotic mystery. This monumental book takes a retrospective look at the photographer's work. The content is sexually charged with models of all shapes and sizes posing in a series of uncompromising positions. While the content might not be to everyone's taste, Jan's masterful command of technique is impressive. His highly constructed studio scenes illustrate complex staged narratives that have been exquisitely rendered as hand-coloured prints suggesting a beauty that often contradicts the image's content. It's important to note that Jan's work is not to be confused with that of fellow countryman, photographer and namesake Josef Saudek. The reproduction of the images is excellent. **Ben Brain**