

The New Erotic Photography
By Dian Hanson and Eric Kroll
(Taschen, £29.99)

The New Erotic Photography (or 'the bumper book of fannies' as we've christened it in the office) is a colossal compendium of sensual delights. As well as plenty of fresh new talent, there are many familiar faces amongst the 82 contemporary erotic photographers, including Jan Saudek, Ralph Gibson, Terry Richardson and Bob Carlos Clarke.

The editor, veteran adult magazine editor Dian Hanson, addresses the great erotica versus porn debate, and alongside a portfolio of their best work each photographer broaches this subject and their art, their lives and their take on censorship.

The collection is extremely varied, but every picture is equally potent, from Robert Adler's hard faced dominatrixes to Guido Argentini's delightfully sanguine ladies lounging in decadent hotel rooms.

BT Charles' old-school shots of ladies clad in stockings, girdles, bras and waist cinchers incorporate

a saucy Fifties theme, whilst Jean Van Cleemput's glassy-eyed girls are curiously kitsch, posing



amidst red and gold baroque settings with random marine life. Naomi Harris' graphic depictions of Middle American swingers participating in strangely clinical sexual activities are highly provocative, as are Noritoshi Hirakawa's stolen snapshots of schoolgirls' white knickers, like a window through the eyes of a voyeur.

Olaf Martens' bold women in ballrooms frolicking with giant Irish Wolfhounds are spectacular, and Jan Saudek's intrepid and powerful sepia-tinted stills are like snapshots from a forbidden Victorian era.

As well as a visually stunning book, the photographer's individual perspectives on pornography versus erotica are witty and insightful. Marc Baptiste, whose black-and-white action shots are playful and sexy, put it most succinctly as he said, 'Erotic photography goes to the line; porn crosses it,' and *The New Erotic Photography* undoubtedly straddles that line, offering us a dazzling array of the sauciest, most delectable images I have ever seen.

R.A.