

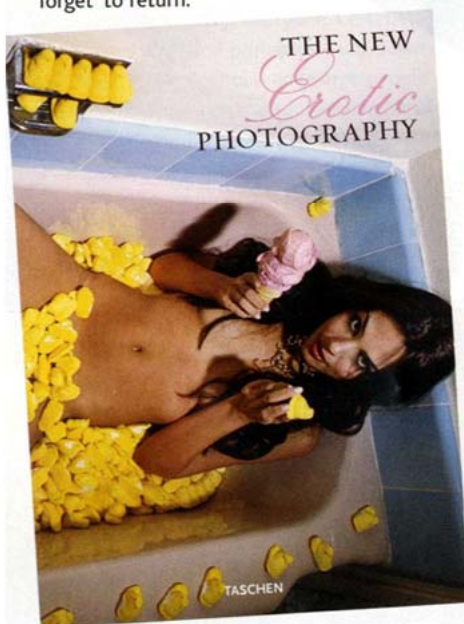
The New Erotic Photography

Edited by: *Dian Hanson and Eric Kroll*
Published by *Taschen*, 608 pages

This is brilliant. Absolutely **BRILLIANT!!** Brilliant with a double 'Br' a couple of 'illi's and a shouted 'ant'.

PRICE
£29.99

Taschen, a German publisher, produces some of the highest-quality books around – ones that you just want to own, be proud of owning and want to keep for ever. Their forte is so-called 'coffee-table books' – the kind of things that are picked up, scanned through while you're waiting for the host to re-appear from the kitchen with the first drinks of the evening, and then discarded. But not in this case. This is the sort of book that you borrow and 'forget' to return.



As a reviewer, I get sent more books each month than some people read in a lifetime and, like most reviewers, it's rare that I get drawn into one that captivates from beginning to end. In this case, I read every (English!) word at least twice and studied all the wonderful photos time and time again. The book is tri-lingual – English, German and French – which, probably, helps to explain its low price.

This hard-back tome is essentially a celebration of the erotic female form – any male images are largely incidental – a rich collection of modern photos from many of the best-known and some of the lesser-known exponents of the art. It features seminal works by 82 different photographers, from fourteen different countries, complete

with their CVs and bibliographies.

'Photographer' is a loosely used term in common parlance – it should not mean 'a person who happens to own a camera', but all too often these days, it does. A person who fires off several hundred shots with a digicam, might get lucky once or twice, then edit them on a computer – but they're not a photographer. A photographer is someone who composes images with a vision in their mind – then gets lucky with a couple and can show the world what they had in mind from the beginning. Indeed, one featured photographer, Steve Diet Goedde from Los Angeles, states, 'Shooting digitally with a seemingly infinite amount of exposures can make a photographer lazy.' He's right (although some featured artists disagree). This is what you get from this book – the results of a sequence of thinking, envisaging, planning, preparing, hoping, shooting, printing and then – WOW!!! 'I caught exactly what I was after'!

There are around 300 full-, or close to full-page plates that, depending on your predilections, warrant being framed and hung on the wall for a fraction of the price you'd pay in an art shop. If you really like what you see, buy a second copy – it's a bargain at less than £30.00 a copy. Keep one complete and use the other to frame pages as wall decoration. I would start with pages 110 and 111 – courtesy of Didier Carre – who writes; 'With pornography there is no room left for dreaming about the subject. With erotic photography the work is not finished and you can imagine what will happen later.'

I've held back the final 0.1 mark to motivate Taschen to produce something even better – but it's a hard act to follow.

I rate this magnificent book at 9.9 out of 10

With thanks to Taschen
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