

SHOPPING

WITH MICHAEL HOOTMAN



Pierre Et Gilles: Double Je, 1976–2007 (Taschen) is a comprehensive retrospective of the artists' work. It's quite an incredible journey, where religious iconography is mixed with explicit sexual imagery and incredibly sexy boys pose in hyperreal landscapes, which are dazzling triumphs of set design. As Jeff Koons writes in his introduction: "Their work embraces the mystical qualities of sexuality," but it also takes in high camp, humour and a spirituality that is ambiguous, as

it's hard to fathom if it's sincere or ironic. The book brings together all of the 130 works included in their current show in Paris, as well as an additional 170 pieces focusing on the past ten years. There's also an essay at the end by Paul Ardenne, which features sections such as *The Transhistorical Body* and *An Alternative Art Of Eternity*, just in case you needed an intellectual excuse to look at pictures of naked young men.