

Pierre et Gilles/Taschen/£29.99

It would take a Herculean effort to make a bad book of the gorgeous work of Pierre et Gilles so it's not surprising that good old Taschen has done the pair proud with this superb monograph. Even if you've tried resisting their considerable powers of seduction before, Grafik defies you not to delight in this collection of Pierre et Gilles' work from their first collaborations in the mid-Seventies to their current creations. Though they've had innumerable imitators no one has ever managed to pull off the same passive/aggressive balance of eroticism and innocence, kitsch and sophistication, humour and gravity present in each lovingly crafted Pierre et Gilles tableau. There are over 300 beautifully reproduced full-page works here, as well as an introduction by Jeff Koons and essay by historian Paul Ardenne. More absorbing still is an illustrated biography charting the duo's lives from birth, through their meeting in Paris, to the present day, using archive photos, snapshots with friends and collaborators, behind-the-scenes photos on their amazing sets, drawings and magazine covers. If only Pierre et Gilles' world were real, we'd apply for citizenship immediately.

