

Taschen has brought out another of its big, block-busting, muscle-straining tomes in the form of **Africa**, by Sebastiao Salgado (£39.99/£35.99). Salgado finds poor men, women and children from all over Africa and photographs them and their lands in black and white, turning them into huge, forceful biblical tableaux. He has set himself the enormous task of understanding and interpreting in visual terms a complex, ancient and living tradition. He succeeds on many levels, recording terrible privations but giving his subjects dignity. There are glimmers of hope in these faces.