

FAKE_CELEBRITIES_... REAL_POSSIBILITIES_...



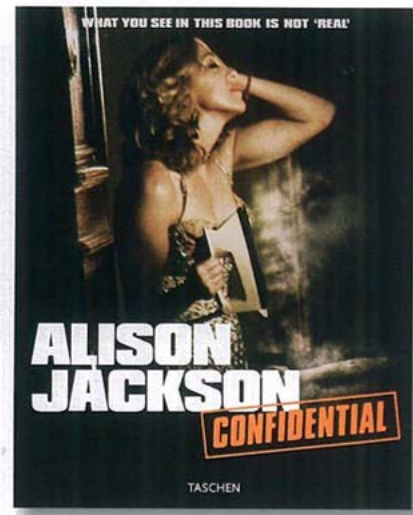
SEEING IS BELIEVING IN ALISON JACKSON'S PHOTOGRAPHS OF CELEBRITIES_ <

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> BY_STELLA MATTHEW

In these salacious and celebrity obsessed times we live in, it comes as no surprise that an antidote has been found. By poking fun at the figures she photographs, Alison Jackson has become a controversial and witty answer to those devotees of the tabloids and gossip magazines. She has photographed the Queen of England on the toilet, George Bush and Tony Blair chatting in the sauna, felonised Paris Hilton bribing her fellow inmates and David Beckham wearing his wife's thong. Or has she? The likenesses are uncanny but of course her subjects are look alike. What Alison is trying to demonstrate is that in our all-encompassing celebrity culture, seeing is believing, while the truth is often another story entirely. Says Alison, "Likeness becomes real and fantasy touches on the believable. The viewer is suspended in disbelief. I try to highlight the the psychological relationship between what we see and what we imagine. This is bound up in our need to look, our voyeurism, our need to believe." Indeed, by showing us what we all image to happen behind closed doors, that the Queen does her own washing-up or that Madonna irons in her underwear, we are led to question the intrusive nature of today's Paparazzi obsessed culture. Alison's work causes controversy, because it dares to cross the fine line between the private and public life of our divine, contemporary and idealised icons...



Alison Jackson, Confidential
Published by Taschen, Photos by Alison Jackson
Hardcover, slipcase - 284 pages



"Because we unquestioningly accept the authenticity of the image, it would appear that we are being given a glimpse of something confidential, a private moment. It is only upon closer examination that we question the reality of the image and hopefully this makes us question our unwitting tendency to believe everything we see in the media today." Alison, who says her inspiration lies amongst Andy Warhol's Marilyn, Mario Testino's images of Diana and Alberto Kordo's Che Guevara is well aware of the controversy that she causes. "...There was a low point when I was placed under the surveillance of the anti-terrorist squad for a whole year. I thought that I was going to be taken to Paddington Green and I feared for what they might do to me..." The M+B Gallery in Los Angeles in conjunction with Taschen will feature Alison's first Stateside exhibition. *Alison Jackson: Confidential* also features interesting essays by Will Self, Charles Glass and William Ewing.

