

PICK OF THE PICTURE BOOKS

Grander, taller, fatter: we should have expected that Taschen, world champions in blockbuster photo volumes, would take the gold with its Olympic tie-in title. Edited by Liu Heung Shing, *China: Portrait of a country* (£29.99) duly weighs in beyond super-heavyweight class. Inside, 88 Chinese photographers capture every corner of their homeland's history and culture since the 1949 revolution. A visual mood that kicks off with geometric uniformity closes with punky individualism. Publishing insiders will note with a smile that this big-value brick was printed, not in China, but in Spain. Shanghai too pricey now? *Right: a kissing contest in Sichuan, 2007* (Qiu Haiying).

