

## Bigger&amp;Better

BOYIT

DIAN HANSON

## TOM of FINLAND

**Bigger is better: The complete life and work of the artist Tom of Finland**

In 1998, TASCHEN introduced the world to the masterful art of Touko Laaksonen with *The Art of Pleasure*. Prior to that, Laaksonen - better known as Tom of Finland - enjoyed an intense cult following in the international gay community, but was largely unknown to the masses. *The Art of Pleasure* gave Tom well-deserved recognition, and increased his following exponentially.

Tom of Finland XXL will forever secure his position in the realm of fine art.

Within its 666 pages, *Tom of Finland XXL* contains over 1000 images, covering 6 decades of the artist's career. The work was gathered from all known collections across the US and Europe, with the help of the Tom of Finland Foundation. The coffee table gift book features many drawings, paintings and preparatory sketches that have never been reproduced in any publication. Other images have only been seen out of context, and will be presented here in the sequential order Tom intended - for full artistic appreciation and erotic impact. This elegant, oversized volume will showcase the full range of Tom's talent, from sensitive portraits, to frank sexual pleasure, to tender expressions of love, to Tom's haunting tributes to young men struck down by the AIDS epidemic.

Completing this collector's edition, are eight commissioned essays on Tom's social and personal relevance by Camille Paglia, John Waters, Armistead Maupin, Todd Oldham, and others -- plus, a scholarly analysis of individual drawings by art historian Edward Lucie-Smith. For the man—or woman—who thinks bigger is better, *Tom of Finland XXL* will satisfy.

*Tom of Finland XXL* 666 pages, \$200. Available: March 2009

