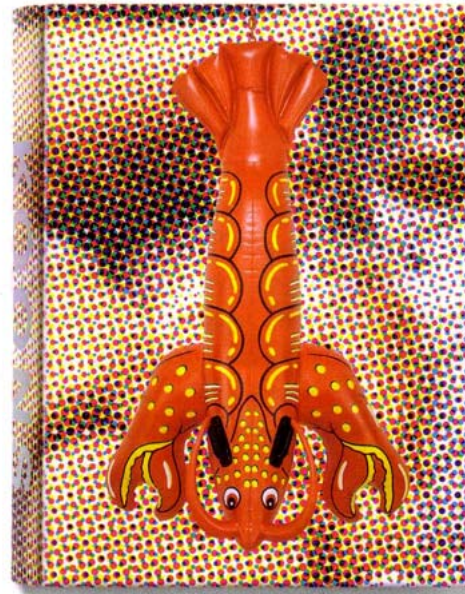
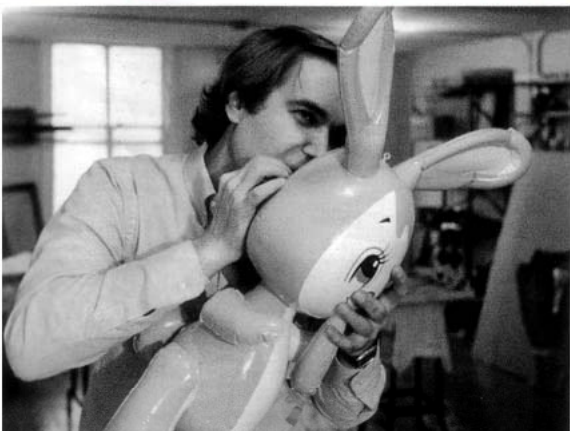


bluestocking



**KOONS** Kitsch, conceptual, grotesque, kinky and visionary—all of these somewhat sparring descriptions have been used to describe the work of artist Jeff Koons. His immaculate replicas of domestic products, advertisements, glossy toys and models have exercised an enthusiastic endorsement of unlimited consumption and have arguably asked his audience to breach the borders of their preconceived notions of taste (let's not forget his late 1980s body of work "Made in Heaven," featuring sexually-charged photography and realistic sculptures of himself with his then-wife Italian porn star-turned-politician Ilona Staller) and have undeniably created his lure. Critical responses to Koons' works have been extreme, but the Koonsian mix of art historical reference and popular iconography, and meaning and abstraction, offers a depth beyond their soft and fuzzy (or plastic and blowup) exterior. It's his depth and vanguardism that his fans, friends and tight collector/dealer circle are obsessed with and what has catapulted the price of his work into the millions over the last 10 years—foraying him into the venerated position one of the leaders in contemporary art sales.

Thus the need for Taschen's colossal monograph titled, simply, *Koons*. With over 600 pages of detailed analyses by art historian and critic Katy Siegel and hundreds of glossy large-format photographs tracing Koons' career from 1979 to today, it is a landmark edition. The tome begins with a biographical essay by friend and former *Interview* editor-in-chief Ingrid Sischy, who contextualizes his work within the intersecting mazes of the art world and his life. Following is an essay by German curator and artistic director Eckhard Schneider, which analyzes Koons from the perspective of European eyes—less concerned with Puritan virtues. But the main course is the extended bibliography and lavish illustrations, ensuring that this 'book-object' will get a second glance from collector and voyeur alike ■ *Marina Cashdan~ Koons, hardcover, Taschen taschen.com*

APR + MAY 2009