

WORDS Daniel Fulvio



TOM BOY

80's icon **TOM OF FINLAND** is back as Taschen publish the definitive book of the uber rude gay illustrations

The late Tom of Finland (Finnish artist Touko Laaksonen) was the sketcher of improbably large phalluses on men of improbably large stature, many of which polarised opinions. The scenes of moustachioed men, straining out of their jeans and into each other, divide people – some think it's crass while others think it's really rather hot. For those who fall in the later category, Tom's prodigious output can now be found in one big book from Taschen, the incredibly stylish coffee-table book people, that covers all six decades of his career.

"Other images have only been seen out of context," explains Taschen. "But they will be presented here in the sequential order Tom intended for full artistic appreciation and erotic impact."

But, readers, remember this is art. And therefore sandwiched amongst the sketches of muscle-bound acts of love are specially commissioned essays on Tom from writers such as Camille Paglia and Armistead Maupin. Love or loath him, Tom is forever seared into our gay collective conscious. And here is a book that proves it.

Tom of Finland XXL is published mid march

