

INTERNATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

HELMUT NEWTON

FROM *SUMO*

During the late 1960s and early '70s, Hans Feurer (celebrated for photographing one of the sexy Pirelli calendars), Guy Bourdain (known for his psychological narratives and for his visionary treatment of space, composition, and color), and Helmut Newton were the "hot" photographers working for the fashion glossies. During the course of a career spanning fifty years, Newton's photographic style crystallized around two themes: glamour and sexual decadence. Newton brought sex and theater to the fashion world and became famous for his erotic scenes, sado-masochistic and wildly fetishistic subtexts, outrageous locations, and the use of props such as wheelchairs, pistols, and leg braces. The book *SUMO* was published by Taschen ten years ago and is considered to be the most spectacular and expensive photography book project ever, weighing in at more than sixty-five

pictures on four hundred eighty pages. Each book was signed and numbered by Newton and is accompanied by a book holder made by designer Philippe Starck. The photographs in *SUMO* cover every aspect of Newton's career—from his fashion photographs to his nudes and celebrity portraits. Publisher Benedikt Taschen said, "I wanted to build a monument to the most important photographers of the twentieth century." The photographs from *SUMO* will be on view at the Helmut Newton Foundation to mark the tenth anniversary of the publication of the book. Accompanying the exhibition is a smaller and revised version of *SUMO*. Newton died in 2004 after driving a car into a wall at the Chateau Marmont in Los Angeles after suffering an apparent heart attack. The exhibition will be on view from June 3 to January 31, 2010 at the Helmut Newton Foundation, 2 Jebenstrasse, Berlin, Germany. ♡



16 ARRONDISEMENT, FRENCH VOGUE, PARIS 1975.
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