



## A PASSION FOR TASCHEN

*Spread 'em on the coffee table – the tomes by homo-friendly publishers Taschen*

A coffee table needs a coffee table book, and for 30 years Taschen has been delivering the goods in that regard with a collection of picture-heavy, man-friendly titles to fan out across Heal's finest in your living room.

Taschen is responsible for bringing art that would previously have been considered underground – and perhaps even subversive – into the mainstream. Most recently, the company has published the work of George Acquistano, who painted high-camp erotic art depicting lusty Latinos and raunchy ranch hands in 50s America. His work included chaps in Tom of Finland mode, but in a pre-gay liberation era George had to find ways of showing off the male physique without revealing any cock.

Since then, the world has evolved to the point where Taschen's *The Big Penis Book* – a title that does exactly what it says on the

bulgicious cover – is considered acceptable sitting-room furniture, worthy of a flick-through in the TV ad breaks. And in further genre-busting glory, the book is set to be reissued early next year in glorious 3D(!).

Taschen is also responsible for the second-most expensive book ever published, a \$12,500, 75lb, 700-page tome called *GOAT (Greatest Of All Time)*, which was a tribute to the American boxer Muhammad Ali.

The company has also collected together the wet 'n' wild works of Terry Richardson, the enfant terrible of American photography; published the best of homo zine *Bull* to celebrate its first five years; and compiled Tom of Finland's panel stories, which as all good stories go, usually end up with someone somewhere getting a jolly old rogering. *The Art Of George Quaintance is out now on taschen.com*