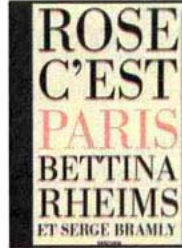


Books in Brief

Rose, C'est Paris
Bettina Rheims and
Serge Bramly
Taschen, £650 (hb)



Taschen has turned the book as collectible object from avant-garde oddity into luxury commodity, and *Rose, C'est*

Paris is an eminent example of this transition. It is a huge tome of photographs by Bettina Rheims, who mixes Duchamp, De Sade, Haute Bohemia and top models, and encloses them in an elegant attaché case. It also contains an explanatory booklet, DVD, black mask, pink rose and a miniature Eiffel Tower for use as weapon. As such, it is like a Fluxus box crossed with Dennis Wheatley's *Murder Off Miami*, complete with physical clues such as cigarette stubs. The god of Taschen is in the details: discretely embossed initials and rusted clasps of the case, the clipped corners of the book to aid turning—sumptuous production standards. High-quality black and white printing is matched by high-society S&M in a paean to Paris and its libertine heritage. Rheims and Serge Bramly, experts on both, pay homage to an almost-vanished 1970s elegant Parisian decadence. The book is also a tribute to family connections, starring Anthony Delon, son of Alain, Thadée Klossowski, offspring of Balthus, and Rheims's own son, Virgile Bramly, sporting the Académie Française tunic of her father, the author-auctioneer Maurice. ■

Adrian Dannatt