

Salon
Inez van Lamsweerde & Vinoodh Matadin

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By Justin Quirk

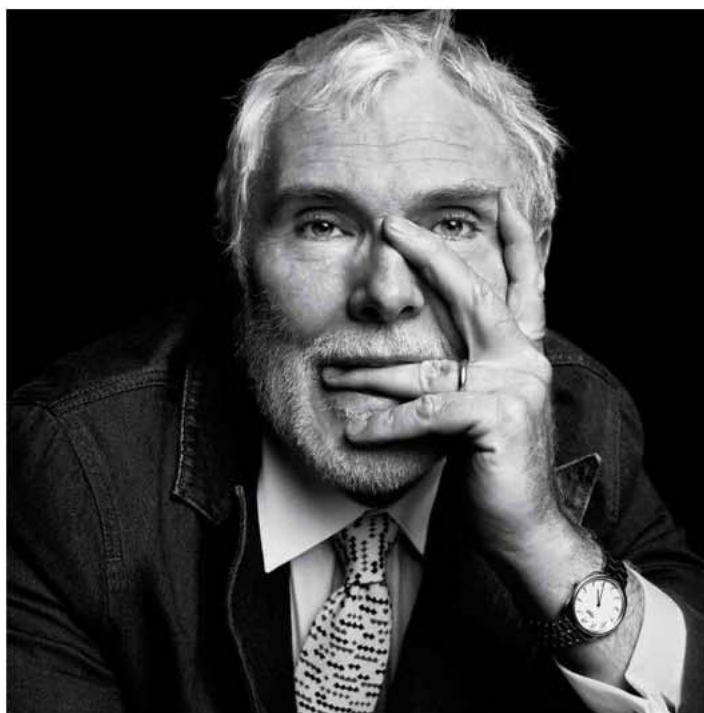
INEZ VAN LAMSWEERDE and Vinoodh Matadin produce imagery that floats somewhere between high art, portraiture and high fashion. Meticulously crafted yet open and accessible, their work ranges from portraits of Björk to advertising campaigns for Givenchy. A new, lavishly produced retrospective of their work (art directed by their regular collaborators M/M) gathers together 'pretty much everything' that the pair have produced together over the last two decades.

The Dutch duo first came to prominence shooting for *The Face* in the early '90s, where their technically experimental, hyperreal shoots stood in stark contrast to the then-prevalent grunge aesthetic. They have long-standing creative relationships with the likes of Kate Moss, Chloë Sevigny and

Sophia Loren, and have created advertising campaigns for clients including Balenciaga, Christian Dior and Gucci and have created portraits of actors from Clint Eastwood to Bill Murray.

'It is typical of the photographic art of van Lamsweerde and Matadin that they urge their image making to de-stabilise the pristine surfaces expected of consumer culture,' writes Michael Bracewell in the introduction to their book. 'To this end they make use, in turn, of the Gothic, inscrutability, androgyny, comedy, eroticism, surrealism, fantasy, montage, cinema, replication, image manipulation, Pop art, fetishism and art historical nuance.' With just 1000 copies produced of the book, this two-volume retrospective is a fitting tribute to their work.

24 house



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