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The Opéra, Volume I: Magazine For Classic & Contemporary Nude Photography



Synopsis

This new annual publication surveys contemporary nude photography, with work from Barron Claiborne, Bart Hess, Bear Kirkpatrick, Christian Coigny, Christian Kettinger, David Lindsey Wade, Elene Usdin, Eric Marrian, Imogen Cunningham, Renée Fietzek and Valeria Mitelman among others.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This volume starts with photos by Imogen Cunningham, taken from the 1930s to 1950s. Her work is classic, of course, and starts this with the notion that the human figure is timeless. No matter what decade and what stylistic flourishes come and go, the basic beauty of the human animal underlies it all. Starting there, the editors present a varied selection of color and B&W photos. Some, like Jo Schwab (the cover artist) tend toward basic portraiture - photos so simple that the photography seems to vanish, leaving the viewer with the model's unique character. Others, like Berger, tend toward a more sculptural style. Then there are Bellemere's faceless and complex poses conveying equally complex moods, Marrian's stark contrasts, adorned figures in studies by Joon and Peripetie, Valsecchi's glowing auras, Brulat's brutal isolation, and much more. Although young, slim, Anglo women appear most often (as in so many other collections), not all are slim, or women, and many models demonstrate the wider palette of human colors and figures - variety that enriches the collection and the viewer. Though wide-ranging, the range never approaches vulgarity. Erotic elements arise, but only as one of the undertones of human nature - good taste reigns throughout.

Well printed and nicely bound, the reproductions here do justice to the images they reproduce. This claims to be the first of an annual series. Ignoring the contradiction of "first annual" anything, I'm looking forward to successor volumes.-- wiredweird

This magazine is well produced, the binding and paper is first class, coffee table book heavy though not a hardback, No interviews of the photographers who's works are either BW or Color. The works are divided into 5 categories, Exposition, Komplikation, Peripetie, Retardation and Katastrophe. The nudes run from classic, to near erotic (I love the cover shot). There is some poetry, and each photographer is listed where they live/work and their website. No advertising. The last page give list of artists for volume 2, I hope they include artists like Uwe Ommer, Carrie Leigh, Mapplethorpe in their future editions.

Beautiful Art Direction, image reproduction, and a classy leaning toward a refined Editorial direction. Enjoyed seeing the work of colleagues I had originally assigned at Vibe magazine in the 1990s, such as Barron Claiborne (his work really enriches "The Opera"), and Christian Witkin.

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