

LITERARY



RETROSPECTING SANDY HILL

Chris Shaw
Mörel Books

Photographer Chris Shaw shot to fame with his first book, *Life as a Night Porter*, a seamy documentary look at his nocturnal existence working in hotels in Paris, London and New York. This book of his early work, taken in Sandy Hill, an estate on the fringes of Farnham, in 1987 while he was studying photography, is an honest and intimate look at normality in what might be termed Middle England. From the neighbourhood punk kids to the elderly, from macho men to boy racers and benefit cheats, this is a portrait of the people who fascinated Shaw, rendered as a facsimile of his original prints, torn up and annotated by hand. We like this book so much we pleaded with Shaw and his publisher Aron Mörel to let us preview of it in the VICE Photo Issue back in July. Which they did, and it looked great. So you can imagine how amazing 96 pages of it in one book will look.

morelbooks.com



THE BAG I'M IN: BRITISH YOUTH SCENES 1959-1989

Sam Knee
Cicada Books

This book sets out to “excavate, explore, dissect and connect the evolution of 36 of Britain’s most radical, vital underground scenes from 1960 to 1990—undoubtedly the most action-packed 30 years of UK youth history”, according to author Sam Knee in his introduction, which follows a foreword on the power of style in music by Primal Scream frontman Bobby Gillespie. It certainly achieves that goal. Scores of unpublished photos, many retrieved from personal collections, cover everything from CND to hard mod and Oi!, new romantic to goth, Medway garage, psychobilly and baggy. *The Bag I’m In* stratifies Britain’s iconic scenes, with essays on its musical context and cultural significance. While it would have been easy to pigeon-hole each scene, the book feels involved and intelligent, and embraces the vagaries and cross-overs of each era and its tribes.

cicadabooks.co.uk



SEX-THEATER

André Gelpke
Spector Books/Cpress

This is a new edition of André Gelpke’s infamous 1981 photo book. It’s a wild exposé of Hamburg’s shuttered 1970s sex theatres. Performers in the swings of uninhibited displays ranging from audience tease to airborne coital. A carnival of visceral pleasures set against barren stages adorned with silk curtains. The onlookers, of both sexes, delight in the erotic displays, with the performers inviting audience participation and penetration. The photographs are candid. The flash eviscerating the privacy of the room in blinding light, without disturbing the gazes of concentration and joy. André Gelpke captured a now-extinct erotic entertainment that provided for its clientele the chance to enact their fantasies and revel in the spectacle of flesh. You can taste the effluvia of the hard-trodden, musty carpets and thumbed, grease-streaked tumblers.

spectorbooks.com



SHOJI UEDA

Shoji Ueda,
Toshiyuki Horie
Chose Commune

This collection of the late Japanese photographer Shoji Ueda’s work, much of it previously unpublished, and the accompanying (trilingual) text by Toshiyuki Horie offer a dreamlike window on to Tottori, Ueda’s native coastal region that remained at the core of his work throughout his career. Bringing together images reminiscent of his most famous surrealist work, along with more naturalistic observations of his daily surroundings, his family, and the dunes that obsessed him, alongside his less well-known still lives, the book is a glimpse into Ueda’s universe, seeing his world as he saw it. It’s eerie and slightly haunting, while being utterly serene. Horie’s text redoubles the sense of dislocation, a strange short story touching on certain photos within the book and tying them together in a surreal memoir that revolves around what seems to be a local form of trepanation.

chosecommune.com



HÄRKÄLÄ

Iikka Tolonen
Kehrer Verlag

Most people over 30 can recall that period when things start quietening down. Some, usually those who want to carry on fucking about a bit longer, might bemoan the settling down, the mortgage and the kids, but that point at which one’s friends start to grow up is a key passage in modern life. Finnish photographer Iikka Tolonen’s portrait of a tight-knit group of hell-raisers from Helsinki’s suburbs, shot over 20 years, captures the alternative to growing up. As Tolonen and his project move on, its subjects don’t. They age, their skin becomes waxy, their bodies disfigured by scars, shoddy tattoos and injuries. They seem content, tinkering with cars, drinking beers, smoking endlessly in dilapidated homes. While this book captures some of the camaraderie of not giving a toss about anything but your mates, there’s also a chilling and palpable feeling of total loss.

kehrerverlag.com