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Beauty: In Some Recent Art

Michael Bracewell

Charles Asprey

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Binding	Hardback
Territory	World excluding USA & Canada
Size	190 mm x 130 mm
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- The term 'beauty' has been all but expunged from recent art criticism. And yet beauty remains a quality that many artists over the last 50 years have regarded as vital to their work, in both form and subject matter
- This book comprises a timely and controversial assertion of beauty as vital to the energy of contemporary art, from Gilbert & George as supreme aesthetes to contemporary artists as varied in their practice as Isa Genzken, Kai Althoff, Lucy McKenzie, Lukas Duwenhögger, Berkeley Hendricks and Wolfgang Tillmans, to whom are added Lana del Rey and Andy Warhol
- Lavishly illustrated with 80 plates and selected discursive captions
- Beautiful book specification featuring Japanese Takeo papers

This book comprises a timely and controversial assertion of beauty as vital to the energy of contemporary art. As such it surveys work by an international group of artists who share an intense and highly individualistic focus on the processes of making, authorship and aesthetic poise. An essay by Michael Bracewell shares with its subjects the return of aesthetics to the science of feelings; to the individual as opposed to 'identity'; and to a sensibility in visual art that is literary, flees the stereotype and rejects sociopolitical verbiage. It is a concept of beauty in some recent art that is less about representation than it is about memoir, fictional devices, cultural connoisseurship as praxis and the profundity of human relationships.

Michael Bracewell is the author of seven novels and four works of non-fiction, including most recently *Souvenir: London 1979 - 1986* (2021) and *Unfinished Business* (2023). He has written widely on visual art, pop music and popular culture, including *Bridget Riley: Paintings and Related Work* (National Gallery, London, 2010) and a monograph, *Modern World: The Art of Richard Hamilton* (art/books, 2020). He has published interviews with many musicians, including Nina Simone, Lou Reed, Patti Smith and Lisa-Marie Presley, He was also a contributor to *The Rise of David Bowie, 1972–1973*, with Mick Rock and Barney Hoskyns (Taschen, 2016). A selection of Bracewell's writings on art, *The Space Between* was published by Ridinghouse in 2012. More recently he contributed the Introduction to a new edition of Oscar Wilde's classic essay *The Critic As Artist* first published in 1891 (David Zwirner Books, 2019). **Charles Asprey** has been working with artists since the early 1990s. He is the founder of *Picpus Press*, an influential arts journal, and co-founded Ridinghouse in 1995 as a publishing house. He has produced several monographs with emerging artists: *Scrapheap Services* by Michael Landy (1995); *Teenage Pantomime* by Antje Majewski (2002); *Tenant of Culture* (with Soft-Opening, 2020); *A.B.* with Amelia Barratt (2022).







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