

ONE
EXHIBITION
AND BOOK
NOT TO MISS

All images © Jim Lee

JIM LEE: ARRESTED

Having made a name for himself in the 1960s and 70s as a fashion photographer with his surreal and unconventional images, **Jim Lee** went on to a career in film making. This month a sumptuous new book is published that celebrates his remarkable life and work

For Jim Lee, storytelling has always been at the heart of his work – and life. Born in 1945 to parents who were both MI5 operatives, he left his London home at the age of 17 and went to Australia on the Ten Pound Pom deal, an assisted passage scheme set up by the Australian government after World War II. His time in Australia was full of youthful adventure but, more importantly, it opened up a passion for photography that allowed him full creative scope for his instinctive imagination.

Returning to England to escape conscription, Lee quickly established himself as a photographer at the heart of the sixties scene, shooting bands such as the Beatles, Rolling Stones and the Who. 'I threw myself into life,' he says. As his reputation grew he found himself commissioned by many of the leading fashion editors and designers of the day with his work appearing in *Elle*, the *Sunday Times Magazine*, *Harpers & Queen* and the *New York Times*.

His work was narrative-led,



Above **Chain**, 1969 Opposite **Railings**, 1971

both surreal and filmic, and often risqué. 'The camera was just an instrument. Telling stories was my main objective,' he explains. Fashion per se was not his focus of interest, but a means to an end. 'It was a commercial vehicle to earn money and make pictures that meant something to me,' he says. 'I wanted to make people think beyond the frame.' Looking

at this early work you might well find yourself thinking that you are looking at stills from a film. You enter Lee's world, just as the action is happening. Your own imagination is obliged to enter into the narrative work and engage with the picture, inventing your own threads, going 'beyond the frame'. His progression into film-making was, then, quite natural.

By the end of the 70s he had moved into making commercials for television that were inventive and original, winning him major clients. He produced more than 400 advertising campaigns for top brands, including Levi's, Elizabeth Arden, BMW, Shell and British Airways. He also entered the world of feature film-making, including directing the 1992



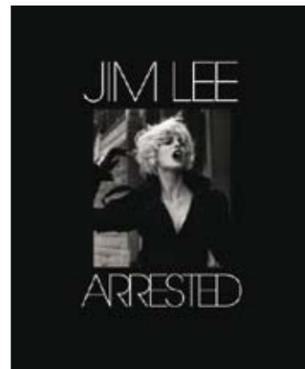


Losing Track, starring Alan Bates.

However, Lee's groundbreaking work of the 60s and 70s was not forgotten – it has been shown in galleries worldwide and is in the permanent collection at the V&A in London. The publication of *Arrested* is a landmark celebration of 50 years of photography and film with a biographical text written by Lee's close personal friend Peter York. 'The book needed to be written by someone who knows and understands me well and Peter has such a sharp and interesting writing style – plus he's known me for 45 years!' says Lee.

The book is launched this month at the Phillips de Pury Gallery in London with an exhibition at Somerset House (see box for details). Alongside the 288 page book, the publishers are producing a special limited edition, with an exclusive print, signed by Lee, all beautifully designed to fit in a slipcase.

To see more of Jim Lee's work visit: jimleefilm.co.uk



EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER

Readers of B+W can purchase *Arrested* at the special price of £65 including P&P (RRP £75). Call 01273 488 005 or visit thegmcgroup.com and quote R3545. Closing date 24 May 2012

Top *Pyjamas*, 1971
Above *Argument*, 2003
Opposite top *Singing barbers*, 1971
Opposite below *Rescue / Help* 2005



BOOK LAUNCH AND EXHIBITION

Jim Lee Arrested will be launched on 9 May at the Phillips de Pury Gallery, 7 Howick Place, London, SW1P 1BB; 020 7318 4010; phillipsdepury.com with a one-night, invitation only, exhibition of the book. The exhibition moves to Somerset House, Strand, London WC2R 1LA; 020 7845 4600; somersethouse.org.uk from 15 May to 3 June.

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