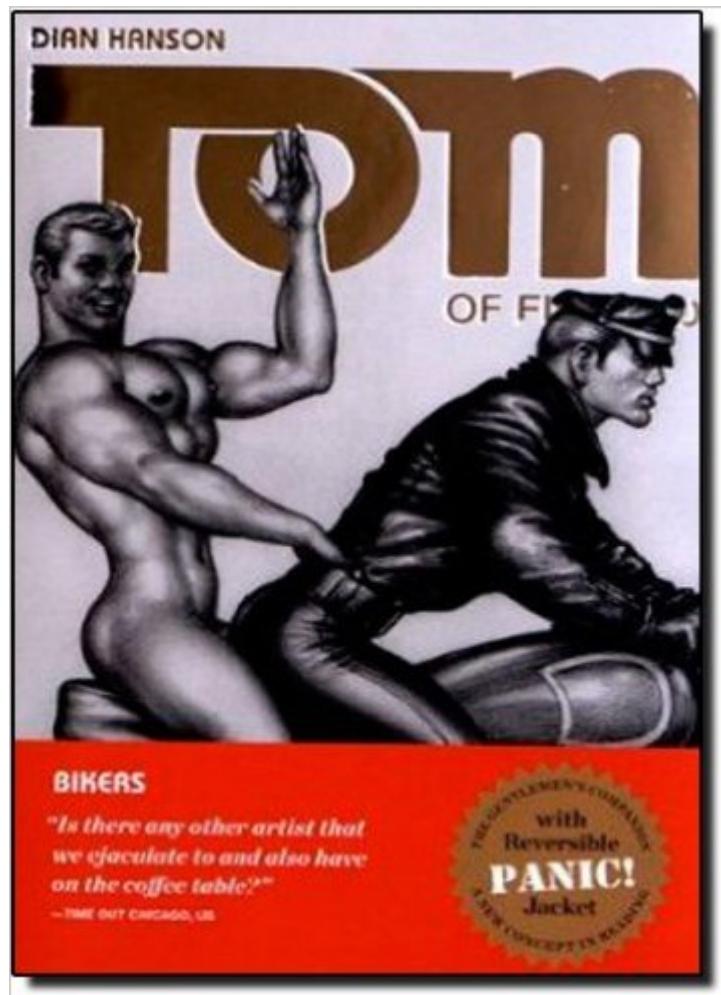


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Tom Of Finland: Bikers, Vol. 2



Synopsis

Boys will be boys! Tom's Brando-inspired bikers and leathermen In 1953 The Wild One, starring Marlon Brando as Johnny, leader of the Black Rebels Motorcycle Club, was released worldwide. In 1954 Tom of Finland, previously known for his military and blue-collar subjects, drew his first civilian motorcyclist dressed in black leather. Coincidence? Hardly. The Wild One, originally marketed to a female audience with a poster featuring a close-up of Brando's face sans leather cap, hair tousled, cheeks and pout tinted pink with the tagline "That Streetcar Man has a new Desire!", resonated far more with gay audiences, who took Brando's character as a template for the first leatherman. After seeing The Wild One Tom never drew men in brown leather again; black leather now dominated his fantasies, and his art. Tom adopted Brando's leather Perfecto jacket, white T-shirt, Levi's, and high boots as his signature look. It was this same look that Tom selected for Kake, his confident, ever-horny hero of 26 panel stories. Kake became Tom's fearless, outgoing alter ego, and bikers supplanted military men as his favorite subject. In Tom of Finland Volume II "Bikers we explore Tom's fascination with bikers through a mixture of multi-panel comics and single panel drawings and paintings, starting in the 1940s, before The Wild One fixed his taste on black leather, through the 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s. Historic film stills and posters, personal photos of Tom, sketches, and Tom's own reference photos make this far more than another Tom's Comics retread. This edition's special Panic Cover is reversible to a realistic-looking academic book to keep the real contents hidden from your annoying boss or even help you impress an attractive onlooker!!! Text in English, French, and German

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Like many, I was extremely excited (and aroused) to learn about this volume of Tom of Finland's art edited by Dian Hanson and published by Taschen. I thought it was about time that someone came up with the brilliant idea of putting Tom's leatherclad bikers into one volume. I preordered a copy and waited impatiently for the book to arrive. For someone who is new to Tom of Finland, this volume provides an excellent way to be introduced to his biker genre. For those of us who are more familiar with most of Tom's oeuvre, this book most likely prompts the following thoughts. The book does a good job at incorporating much of Tom's most famous art depicting horny bikers. The most exemplary choice is the seven panel story of the leatherclad biker who forces a nude hunk onto his motorcycle to try out a few skill testing positions. It is also interesting to see the biker as he evolves in Tom's art, from the brown leather, shoulder padded jackets that his slim, delicate men wore in the late 1940s to his mustachioed uberman in shining black leather astride his gleaming motorcycle in the 70s. I also appreciated the editor's choice of the reference photographs Tom used to draw his bikers - best of all, there are several new photos, particularly of bikers in sex scenes. The price is also excellent: anywhere between \$10-\$20. However, it is likely that this amazing low price for this collection of fantastic homoerotica accounts for some of the issues I had with the volume. The quality of some of the images (certainly not all), particularly from the comic, *The Rope*, was not clean. The first few images appear messy. Some pictures also seem faded, the leather not as glossy. I realize the tools Tom used influenced the look, but he could make leather gleam in any medium!

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