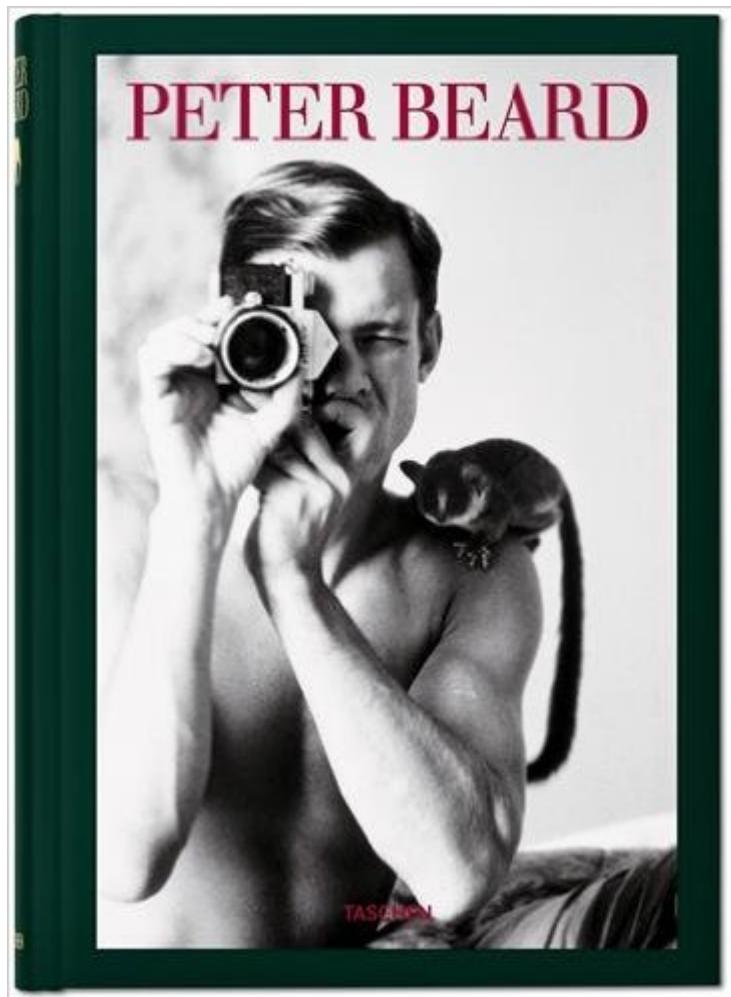


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# Peter Beard



## Synopsis

Into the wild: Journey into the world of Peter Beard Â Photographer, collector, diarist, and writer of books Peter Beard has fashioned his life into a work of art; the illustrated diaries he kept from a young age evolved into a serious career as an artist and earned him a central position in the international art world. He was painted by Francis Bacon and painted on by Salvador DalÃ- , he made diaries with Andy Warhol and toured with Truman Capote and the Rolling Stonesâ "all of whom are brought to life, literally and figuratively, in his work. As a fashion photographer, he took Vogue stars like Veruschka to Africa and brought new onesâ "most notably Imanâ "back to the U.S. with him. Â After spending time in Kenya and striking up a friendship with the author Isak Dinesen (Karen Blixen) in the early 1960s, Beard bought a piece of land near hers. He witnessed the dawn of Kenyaâ TM's population explosion, which challenged finite resources and stressed animal populationsâ "including the starving elephants of Tsavo dying by the tens of thousands in a wasteland of eaten trees. So he documented what he sawâ "with diaries, photographs, and collages. He went against the wind in publishing unique and sometimes shocking books of these works. The corpses were laid bare; the facts carefully recorded, sometimes in type and often by hand. Beard uses his photographs as a canvas onto which he superimposes multi-layered contact sheets, ephemera, found objects, newspaper clippings that are elaborately embellished with meticulous handwriting, old-master inspired drawings and often swaths of animal blood used as paint. Â In 2006 TASCHEN published the book that has come to define his oeuvre, signed by the artist and published in two volumes. It sold out instantly and became a highly sought after collectorâ TM's item. Now the book you couldnâ TMt get your hands on is available in one volume, a handsome hardcover edition revised by Nejma Beard with new images never published before. Â Text in English, French, and German

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## Customer Reviews

Ever since I heard about Peter (oddly enough on an MTV special hosted by Cindy Crawford) I have been keeping track of him. Vanity Fair also had an article about him in 1996, with some of his journals and photos printed which I found to be absolutely beautiful. As a journalist myself, I found it so inspiring and (along with Dan Eldon, where I find many commonalities), he has been a strong influence on my own work. This collection reproduces hundreds and hundreds of pages from his journals. This is an outstanding treat and privilege to have a glimpse into some of his personal work and stories. Peter is so prolific with his journal keeping, collages and photography.. his idiosyncratic style with minuscule and obsessive details that he puts into every page is both admirable and frightening. It would appear as though he has kept extensive journals of his life (since the age of 11) and probably spends significant time every single day with his art. He will write long strings of random sentences and words from his day in his journals, writing in the smallest possible handwriting. All of it is amazing, and with a book that is over 2 inches thick, you are getting SO much to look at. I don't know that a single person could possibly see all there is to see in this comprehensive volume. Because of the books complexity, it may have benefited from coming in two volumes. I do think, at least at one point, Taschen had considered and marketed this book as being in two volumes; the reason for this would simply be practicality. Because of it's weight and size, two volumes may not have been a bad idea for more ease of viewing. But I digress, it is nice to have it all in one hardbound book.

This book is absolutely wonderful! It's filled with a \*huge\* number of beautiful photos and diary entries & drawings. I'd vaguely followed Mr. Beard's career, but I had no idea until recently about his devotion to Africa and I also didn't realize he was so talented. This book is quite a treat and it's something I'll look at again & again.

This book is a throwback to the wonderful art books of the 60's and 70's: It is massive, very well written and the photography is truly excellent. Peter Beard has always been known as a great photographer, very much interested in the environment, specifically in Africa. The photography in

this book shows the reader Beard's life-long commitment to our environment, decades before it became "chic" to do so. Taschen's books have always been known to be of excellent quality and taste, and this is no exception. This is a book to treasure.

Peter Beard is an amazing adventurer and this book should be on the shelf of every photographer and anyone interested in the deplorable way that the natural wild in Africa is being plundered for the sake of profit. It's an amazing photographic journal of his experiences in Africa and the sad way it is being trampled over. He and his father witnessed the shrinking of elephant herds of hundreds running free whittled down to a few hundred fenced in by wild animal park fences. The open ranges in Africa became tourist parking lots. All in all however it is a fantastic photo journal that every serious photographer should have on his or her shelf or rather their coffee table.

This photographer has been one of my heroes for decades first starting out in Africa morphing into Sports Illustrated swimsuit model photos on set then to big game. Totally creative and daring life and images to go with that life. Beard walked the walk and not just the society talk. Most of his images/negatives etc went up in flames in his Long Island house. What a terrible loss. This book is a must have for any serious shooters and lovers of great images!

I wonder if Dos Equis got the idea for its campaign from Peter Beard? This is an impressive tome. I love the work Taschen has done, as it must have been hard to put into a book something so schizophrenic and seemingly haphazard as Mr. Beard's diaries. The work is art and the book is art, perhaps there is no better praise than that. The printing and reproductions are all technically excellent to my, albeit untrained, eye. This is also a historical artifact regarding post colonialism in Africa. Kenya was a messed up place for quite a while, and conservation was put on hold for all but a few brave souls. There are people must search their soul for taking advantage of Africa, and this book touches me for its sympathetic understanding of the charismatic megafauna of the Mara, the Masai, and extremely beautiful African women. Recommended.

... by a unique talent. I travelled around Kenya making photos in 1995 and I am sorry I didn't drop in on Mr. Beard while I was there; we might have had a great visit! This book of his work is very impressive and a great value. Pick it up for your library of photo books; I quite recommend it!

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