

BOOKS

## Beautiful books that open the doors to previously unseen worlds

Insider insights into beautiful spaces – from Kent to the moon. By David Jenkins, our new books editor



Marianne Faithfull  
ANDEE NATHANSON

David Jenkins

Saturday September 03 2022, 12.01am, The Times

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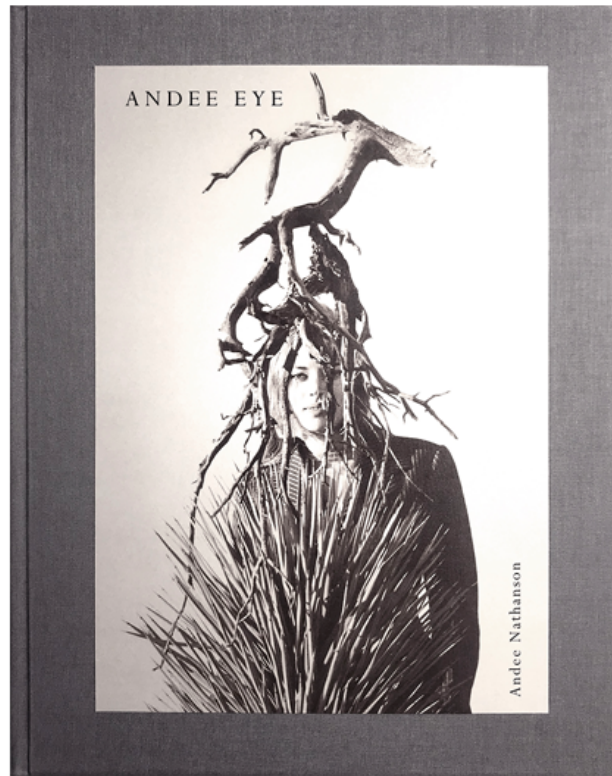
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**T**he are the four books to browse through this autumn. From LA, photographer Andee Nathanson gives us insider views of famous lives, from parties with Mick Jagger to hanging out at Joshua Tree. *Pools* gives us a glimpse of glamorous watery worlds, shot from arial cameras. Ashley Hicks gives us a personal view inside Knole, one of Britain's most famous historic houses. Plus, Sarah Cruddas compiles some of the most enjoyable lunar-themed imagery, from Jean Shrimpton in a Nasa spacesuit to moon stamps.

### Andee Eye

by Andee Nathanson, *Artifacto*, £75



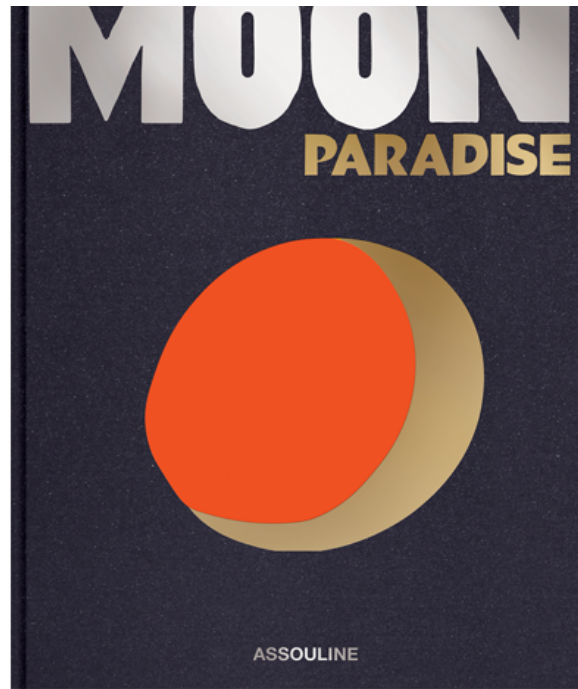
How did it feel to be one of the beautiful people? [Andee Nathanson shows and tells](#) in close-ups of Sixties and Seventies London and LA. There's the intimate photograph of her close friend Gram Parsons playing Marlon Brando's piano. The cheeky childhood shot of Slash, of Guns N' Roses, clutching an ice cream - Nathanson was pals with his mother. There are well-written vignettes: an account, for instance, of Nathanson (girlfriend of the actor James Fox at the time) being ejected for raucousness with Mick Jagger and Marianne Faithfull from a party thrown by Dirk Bogarde at the Connaught that ends with Jagger giving a "stunning rendition" of a Motown classic at his Marylebone home. Several of Nathanson's most numinous pictures - mostly black and white - were made at Joshua Tree in the Mojave Desert, including Jagger and a spectral image of Donyale Luna, the first black woman to feature on a British *Vogue* cover. It's an enviable evocation of an enviable world - and funny. The introduction speaks of "the power of an old-time magic show". Spot on.

[andee-eye.com](http://andee-eye.com)

## Moon Paradise

by Sarah Cruddas, Assouline, £70





This is, in the best sense, a lunatic enterprise, and a highly enjoyable one. Sarah Cruddas has assembled [a selection of moon-related images](#) that titillates, charms and occasionally oversweetens the palate. An exquisite 13th-century diagram of a lunar eclipse sits cheek by jowl with a Richard Avedon portrait of Jean Shrimpton in a Nasa spacesuit; stills from *Barbarella* and *2001: A Space Odyssey* share space with a map of the moon's gravity field that is overlaid with its terrain map. Front pages of *Life*, *The New York Times* and *Il Messaggero* chronicle man's adventures on the moon; fashion shoots, stamps, comic strips and stills from Georges Méliès's groundbreaking 1902 film, *A Trip to the Moon*, typify the creative spell cast by the Earth's only natural satellite. Some of the digital flights of fancy err on the side of kitsch, and there are perhaps too many photographs of models in space suits, but these are minor cavils. *Moon Paradise* is a lush playpen full of colour, wit and fantasy - far more hospitable than the moon itself.

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## Knole: A Private View of One of Britain's Great Houses

by Robert Sackville-West, with photography by Ashley Hicks,  
Rizzoli Electa, £47.95



There's all the splendour that could be hoped for in [Ashley Hicks's images of Knole](#), the great Kentish show house the Sackville family has packed with treasures for more than 400 years. Robert Sackville-West, 7th Baron Sackville - whose family now lives in one wing of the edifice, which was donated to the National Trust in 1947 - writes of being "oppressed by the flinty, watchful gaze of Sackville ancestors" from the many family portraits lining this "calendar" house (it has 365 rooms and, arguably, 52 staircases). There's a voluptuous sculpture of a naked woman that the National Trust's guides used to call "a family friend", who was the 3rd Duke of Dorset's Italian mistress. It's clear that, for all the power and the glory displayed, to try to live in such a palace is a mixed blessing. But to be immersed in sumptuous photographs is to enter a world redolent of grandeur, machinations, melancholy and magnificence.

### Pools from Above

by Brad Walls, Smith Street Books, £28, published on September 29



Brad Walls declares that his “shtick is all about altering our perspective”, and [his aerial photographs](#) do just that. At times there’s nothing but blue, or grey, an ellipse or a rigidly straight line; once, startlingly, a fully clad figure, looking like an escapee, splashes mysteriously in a turquoise pool. Some pools have droll elements about them of a Bond villain’s lair; others are strangely menacing, the exactitude of the loungers’ layout and the force of the architecture provoking as much unease as the notorious weasel under Harold Pinter’s cocktail cabinet. Others yet became shrines to form and colour. It doesn’t have gaggles of kids fracturing the contemplative mood. Walls has taken his drones to California, Mexico, Australia and beyond to explore “negative space and compositional balance”. There is that, in spades, but there’s also seductive riffing on colour, ripples, emptiness and possibility - David Hockney is not the only poet of the swimming pool.

Books

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